


Provincial Insurance
 Company Limited **Stramongate Kendal Cumbria**
 Provincial Life Assurance Co Ltd, Prolific Unit Trusts

WEST EUROPE

Italian move to stop interference with justice

From Patricia Clough

Rome, May 13. The Italian Cabinet today approved a package of measures to combat the latest forms of political and common crime: attacks and threats against justice officials, interference with the process of law and prison escapes.

The most serious case was the enforced suspension of the trial of alleged left-wing terrorists when jurymen, terrified by death threats, refused to serve.

The measures include stiff punishment for interference with courts, constitutional organs and regional assemblies, for threats to people involved in trials and for attacks on members of Parliament, the judiciary, the police and prison officials.

Left-wing groups and Senator Francesco Cossiga, the Interior Minister, today blamed each other for yesterday's grave incidents between police and youths in Rome in which a 19-year-old woman was shot dead and many people were injured.

As they exchanged accusations, students were preparing to defy the Government's six-week ban on demonstrations with four marches through working-class districts of Rome. They called on supporters to defend themselves if police tried to disperse them.

Seven people were injured today during a demonstration by schoolchildren who attacked Christian Democratic and Neo-Fascist party branches with petrol bombs in a Rome suburb. Fifteen police cars were damaged last night when a bomb blew up in a police garage. Police arrested a group of people belonging to a student movement who they said were found in possession of explosives.

Tension was running high here after five hours of street fighting last night. The trouble started after a huge police force prevented a pop festival organized by the non-violent, civil rights-oriented Radical Party.

The incidents started with what eyewitnesses described as unprovoked tear gas charges by police against young people.



Gliders grounded by bad weather in the first day of the Swiss Sailplane Championship yesterday.

Turin court told of chemical plant where workers died of cancer

Turin, May 13.—Five officials of a dye factory are being tried in Turin on charges of multiple manslaughter and causing serious physical harm after allegations that in the Piedmontese town of Cirie, workers have died from cancer of the bladder.

In 32 of the cases the cause of death was officially attributed to toxic chemicals handled at the aniline dye factory in Cirie, about 100 miles from Seveso, where a cloud of dioxin escaped from a factory last summer and contaminated the homes of hundreds of people.

Five defendants at the trial, which opened last month, are the factory's three owners, the general manager and the factory doctor. A sixth defendant, the technical director, died before the trial opened.

The main witnesses are from 13 families of dead or sick workers from the factory, the Industriale Piemontese Coloranti All'anilina (IPCA). Nine more families withdrew from the case in return for compensation from the company.

The factory was criticized in 1953 for using two dangerous compounds, benzenanthracene and benzidine, without taking adequate precautions. They have since been banned in 1952 in several countries, but not in Italy.

Trade union members often asked for more hygienic working conditions. "But the management told us the cost of converting equipment would bankrupt the company," Signor Renato Garini, aged 61, who worked at IPCA from 1948 to 1971, told the court.

He also said that factory inspectors received three complaints, but failed to demand improvements.

Company doctors advised workers suffering from bladder pain to "drink less and the pain will pass away". Signor Garini said, and a widow told the court that her husband's wooden shoes were eaten away by chemicals at the factory in a few days.

It was claimed that workers often failed to complain because the factory assured steady wages. Most employees were former peasants interested mainly in tending their gardens after work.

A union spokesman said that some workers with dangerous jobs were only required to work six hours a day, but worked 12 to make more money.

For the first time in Italy, trade unions have been allowed to take civil action against a company alongside the families.

—Agence France-Presse and Reuters.

Mitterrand rejection of Marchais costing

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, May 13.

M. François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, refuses to accept the Communists' estimates of the cost of carrying out the common programme of the left, published earlier this week. He is to see M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, on Tuesday to discuss the updating of the common programme of 1972.

This was just about the only real revelation that emerged from last night's television debate between M. Barre, the Prime Minister, and M. Mitterrand which is reported to have been watched by some 28 million people.

The two-hour discussion was devoted almost exclusively to economic, monetary and social issues, with only a 10-minute excursion into foreign affairs, and very little domestic politics, save by implication.

As generally expected, the Communists' publication of their astronomical estimates of the cost of implementing the common programme of the left proved a source of acute embarrassment to M. Mitterrand.

M. Barre skillfully exploited his advantage to the utmost. "The Communists were not nice to you," he remarked ironically.

Distinctly on the defensive on this point, M. Mitterrand said that what the Communists had costed was a Communist programme, not the common programme of the left. There was no question of the Socialists' accepting the application of a programme which exceeded

it on all sides. There were a certain number of economic realities which had to be observed.

"Fortunately," M. Mitterrand added a little pointedly, "there is a great Socialist Party which will give all its chances to the Union of the Left."

The Socialist leader has certainly let himself in for some awkward discussions with his Communist opposite number. A cartoon today sums up the position by showing M. Marchais watching last night's gentlemanly duel with a sledge hammer hidden behind his back.

The general's accepted view in the press today is that the Prime Minister won easily on points. The other revelation of the evening was that of M. Barre as a formidable debater, displaying an impressive pugnacity in the cut and thrust in which M. Mitterrand usually excels.

M. Barre not only defended his policy, but a liberal pattern of society, based on efficiency, stability and common sense, as well as on progress and justice. He contrasted it with what he called "the gigantic improvisation" of the policy proposed by M. Mitterrand.

"Your problem is that you want to govern an imaginary France in an imaginary world," he said. If the left came to power he feared M. Mitterrand would be a hostage of the Communists.

M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, said today that after last night's performance his conviction that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

Mr. Marchais, the Communist leader, said today that the Government majority would win the coming election had been strengthened.

A gruesome competition for German readers

From Dan van der Vat

Bonn, May 13.

Readers of today's issue of West Germany's most popular newspaper, *Bild* of Hamburg, have the chance to win a "golden month" free of all household bills, on one uniquely gruesome condition.

All the reader has to do to win is to work out, in a cruelly simple giveaway "competition", the name of a variety of cancer. He then writes the magic word on a postcard and sends it to Hamburg.

The postage costs the equivalent of 10p, but otherwise entry is free. Afterwards, he needs merely to return the draw from the sackloads of correct entries.

Today's type of cancer has, in German, 16 letters in its name, of which the newspaper has obligingly already filled in eight.

In case this is still too hard for the more than five million people who buy the newspaper every day, the entire word is to be found in an accompanying account of the case of a 35-year-old secretary in Bremen.

The article coyly emphasizes that her name has been changed, presumably to save her embarrassment. It also points out that the solution-word is to be found in full in the case-history.

This brief account describes how the sufferer awoke one night after night bathed in perspiration and with unbearably itchy skin. The doctor at first prescribed vitamin pills and rest, but to no avail.

At last, she noticed that certain glands were swollen. In hospital, the diagnosis was Hodgkin's disease, or cancer of the lymph glands or, to give it its German name, Lymphdrüsenkrebs. This must be the solution-word.

Today's is the eleventh consecutive issue of the newspaper in which such a competition has appeared. Each round produces one winner, and so far *Bild*, if my detailed detective work is right, has worked its way through the cancer of the lung, womb, stomach, skin, bones, prostate gland, larynx, breast, brain and intestines, as well as the lymph glands.

Medical classifications vary, but there are between 17 and 28 further varieties of cancer, for the newspaper to choose from as it works its way through its "golden month" of malignancies.

Although the standard of taste in this unprecedented competition is open to question, the cause it supports is not. The reason why Dr. Mildred Scheel, the West German President's wife has lent her name to it, Frau Scheel, a highly qualified radiologist, devotes much of her time to fighting cancer.

As the newspaper put it on the opening day of the series, "this campaign is meant not only to inform, prevent and assist but also to be fun". Each day it urges its readers to send money to the national campaign against the disease.

The newspaper has been offering up its readership for years in such a way that it is bound to succeed.

If this cancer contest does nothing else, it shows that *Bild* is always ready to extend its journalistic boundaries.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

OVERSEAS

Mr Nixon tells how Mrs Gandhi was stopped at last moment from 'gobbling up West Pakistan'

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, May 13.

Former President Nixon's second television interview with David Frost was quite different from the first. This time he talked about foreign affairs, his chief speciality. He was master of the subject, had many fascinating details of his experience to reveal and was quite at ease in doing so.

The show, therefore, had little in common with the earlier interview about Watergate, in which Mr Nixon was on the defensive, unsure of himself, finding excuses and trying to escape from accusations.

He gave a graphic example last night of how relations between the United States, the Soviet Union and China can affect the world at large. He claimed that during the war between India and Pakistan, Mrs Gandhi, once her troops had gained the upper hand in East Pakistan, decided to turn her armies against West Pakistan.

According to Mr Nixon, the Chinese then intervened strongly with the Americans to save the Pakistanis. The Americans, who shared the same objective, intervened with the Russians, asking them, in turn, to get the Indians to pull back.

"It was then that we made the move that we did make," Mr Nixon said. "It was then that I ordered the carrier task force into the Indian Ocean. We sent a very sharp note, of course, to the Russians."

He went on to say: "Unless that had happened I believe she would have taken West Pakistan. She would have gobbled it up and that would have had dramatic consequences."

Turning to Israel's urgent request for arms in the summer of 1973, Mr Nixon said Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, had not wanted to send too many arms because it might destroy the chances of negotiations in the future "if our profile was too high."

Mr Nixon said he decided the issue by saying: "Look, Henry, we are going to get just as much blame for sending three (aircraft) or 30 or 100 or what ever we've got to send everything that flies. The main thing is to make it work."

Mr Nixon compared Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, favourably with Mr Khrushchev. He said that Mr Brezhnev "was not as quick as Khrushchev intellectually" but he was "far better mannered than Khrushchev, a man who did not have an superiority complex even though he knew they were inferior in certain ways."

"Another difference is Khrushchev tried to put on the air of being just a common peasant-like person. He would dress with the sloppy hat, the collar wouldn't be too clean, whereas Brezhnev was something of a fashion plate. He liked beautiful cars, beautiful women, a small thing, Brezhnev and Khrushchev all wore cufflinks. None of the Soviet Party in 1959 wore cufflinks. Things have changed."

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

that had happened I believe she would have taken West Pakistan. She would have gobbled it up and that would have had dramatic consequences."

Turning to Israel's urgent request for arms in the summer of 1973, Mr Nixon said Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, had not wanted to send too many arms because it might destroy the chances of negotiations in the future "if our profile was too high."

Mr Nixon said he decided the issue by saying: "Look, Henry, we are going to get just as much blame for sending three (aircraft) or 30 or 100 or what ever we've got to send everything that flies. The main thing is to make it work."

Mr Nixon compared Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, favourably with Mr Khrushchev. He said that Mr Brezhnev "was not as quick as Khrushchev intellectually" but he was "far better mannered than Khrushchev, a man who did not have an superiority complex even though he knew they were inferior in certain ways."

"Another difference is Khrushchev tried to put on the air of being just a common peasant-like person. He would dress with the sloppy hat, the collar wouldn't be too clean, whereas Brezhnev was something of a fashion plate. He liked beautiful cars, beautiful women, a small thing, Brezhnev and Khrushchev all wore cufflinks. None of the Soviet Party in 1959 wore cufflinks. Things have changed."

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

The new class in the Union is doing pretty well. Of Chairman Mao, Mr Nixon said: "He had already suffered a partial stroke. He had helped to stand up in a handshake. But he was proud that way."

"In this case they were aides... These rather girls lifted him up and he walked over to the microphone. He said that Mao had difficulty in making his understood. "He talked monosyllabically. It was clear that he was having trouble in getting the words out. They were sort of out from under him and he took things down."

"But then, whenever interpretation was made, would listen, and then would reach over and take from her and then he would write out the answer."

The former President observed that Chairman Mao's hands "never got old. They were very fine, delicate. And yet we must recognize that he was a tough, ruthless leader. But it didn't show in his hands."

At the close of his press conference yesterday, President Carter was asked about the Nixon interview. He said that he missed most of it, but he had seen that it was a very good interview. He was guilty of an impression. However, he did think that Mr Nixon believed he was guilty.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

—The Times.

Saturday Review

An extract
from the first
novel
by Antonia Fraser

At Blessed Eleanor's Convent in Sussex,
one of the younger nuns, Sister Miriam,
has apparently starved herself to death in a
ruined tower on the edge of the grounds.
Under the guise of making a programme about
women in religious orders, Jemima Shore, a
highly successful television reporter, is staying
at the convent in order to investigate this and
other disquieting happenings. Jemima Shore is
not a Catholic herself but did attend the school
as a daygirl in wartime, when she formed a
close friendship with Sister Miriam, then
Rosabelle Powerstock and heiress to one of the
largest fortunes in Britain. She has come back
to Blessed Eleanor's now, after a gap of many
years, in response to an urgent and
surprising plea from her former headmistress,
Reverend Mother Ancilla:
"Jemima, something is going on here..."

Night of the Black Nun

It was Dodo, at supper on the Feast of All Souls, who inquired: "I wonder if anyone saw the black nun last night?" Her tone was rather bright. Dodo was such a pretty plump little thing with fair curls and a Cupid's bow mouth, that nothing she said sounded completely serious. But I noted a wry expression on Margaret's face, a slight compression of the lips.

"Aren't all nuns black?" I responded lightly. The death of Sister Edward had not cast a notable shadow on their spirits: she was too young to have taught them. But I wanted to get the conversation away from the events of the night before.

"I'm talking about The Black Nun," Dodo gave the three last words sepulchral emphasis. "An apparition. Did you never see it when you were at the school?"

"No—wait, I do remember something vaguely. Doesn't it haunt the chapel? Or is it the tower?" Margaret said. "And the convent itself. Sister Miriam told us she actually saw the Black Nun when she was girl at school."

"She didn't tell me. It must have only bobbed up after dark. I was a day girl. You tell me."

"Dodo, you tell." Dodo was nothing loath. It transpired that the Black Nun was commonly held to appear shortly before or shortly after the death of a member of the community. Yes, of course, all nuns wore black, but the point of the Black Nun was that you suddenly came across a nun you didn't recognize, a nun you had never seen before. You imagined a novice, a transfer from another convent. But the next day you heard of

the death of a nun. And of course you never saw the Black Nun, that particular Black Nun again.

"I burst out laughing. 'You don't believe us' said one of the other girls at the table, rather grumpily. 'But some of us saw the Black Nun three nights after Sister Miriam ran away. And then turned out to be the night she must have died.' Much chattering followed. Yes, strange nun, a nun they had never seen before, a nun with a strange face, passing them at night, in the corridor, on their way to... their way to where? Why, the chapel. To make a novena to Our Lady. And that night, they learned later, Sister Miriam had given up the ghost in the tower. Surely I had to admit it all added up."

On the contrary, it all sounded deeply implausible to me. Another enigmatic novena in the middle of the night: something I was fairly sure was not allowed by the rules. When I was informed that the Black Nun had first appeared to Blessed Eleanor herself, goodness knows how many years ago, I scoffed openly. Six black nuns were supposed to have carried her to her tower, and at the last moment a seventh unknown nun appeared. Blessed Eleanor asked the stranger who she was, and the answer came back pat: "I am Death itself, who comes before you as a Black Nun."

"None of that delightful story appears in the Treasury of the Blessed Eleanor," I commented in a fairly acid voice. "Exactly. Sister Miriam told us about it. She used to tell us ghost stories after lights out. I was glad to hear that in one respect at least my old friend had not changed. Ghost stories and ghoulish information generally had been Rosa's speciality."

Anyway, somebody did see the Black Nun last night," said the grumpy girl suddenly. Blanche, Blanche Nelligan, was

her name. She did not look like a Blanche, being beetle-browed with rather a bad complexion. "Tessa, Justin, that girl with plaits in the Lower IVth. I was on prefect duty in the big dormitory and Sister Agnes was doing the rounds. Suddenly young Tessa appeared, shrieking her head off, plaits flying; saying a strange nun had interrupted her in the loo. That must have been the Black Nun."

At this we all laughed. A minute later the chairs were scraping back for grace and supper was over. I decided not to give another thought to the Black Nun. I enjoyed my solitary tray of coffee after the girls' chatter. Then I climbed up the visitors' staircase to my own retreat. I really felt that I had quite enough problems on my hands without the question of a spectral religious haunting the junior school bathrooms. The Black Nun was scarcely likely to bother me.

Once I was installed in my room and had looked at the papers on my desk, I saw that I was wrong.

"If you don't believe in the Black Nun," so ran a typed message on a sheet of plain paper placed on top of my copy of *The Times*—"why don't you come to the tower one night and see for yourself? Tomorrow night for example."

There was no superscription and no signature. Jutting out from the paper, on the front cover of *The Times*, I saw a photograph of a girl in the form of the WNG rally. That looked like Emily Crispin at his elbow with some papers on her lap. Neither of them looked particularly ghostly. The photograph gave me no consolation whatsoever.

The Next Day
Sister Liz and I paraded round the hockey fields. I watched an extremely energetic black figure hurtling towards the goal with a hockey stick wielded to deadly effect: Sister Immaculata. Surely she could not still be playing hockey after all these years. I remembered what a shock it gave me to find that nuns, at the sight of a hockey field, merely looped up their black skirts, and tackled the game with their usual black efficiency, veils and all. The maroon coloured figures of the girls were considerably more lackadaisical in their attitude to the game.

The only other participant showing any energy at all was wearing a short black skirt, black stockings, a black jersey with a white collar and a short black veil which revealed most of her hair. I was sure that I had looked up the word in the dictionary while I was at school. Postulant: Candidate, especially for admission into religious order. Tom I suppose was a parliamentary postulant at the general election. At least I was firmly on the side of his election. I wasn't sure what I felt about this girl's candidature. From the convent's point of view, however, it was a good thing that there were still some new vocations around: now that the Order of the Tower of Ivory was not after all to be discontinued by the Projectors.

"She's Irish," said Sister Elizabeth, following the direction of my gaze. "Of course."

Sister Elizabeth was a woman for whom I had a genuine affection, nun or no nun. Her generosity of spirit, her mad enthusiasm for literature in all its forms, endeared her to me. There was a Margaret Rutherford touch about her rest. With her flailing arms, springy walk (signally untouched by the passage of twenty-five years), and her earnestness, she really was not unlike my idea of Margaret Rutherford, supposing she had ever played the part of a nun. Sister Liz was the only woman in the world capable of exclaiming: "I thanked Our Blessed Lord on my knees this morning for making Wordsworth write the *Prelude* at such length."

Of course as a schoolgirl I was attracted to her, just because her values did not seem totally permeated by those of the Catholic religion. We had corresponded in a desultory way after I left. "I shall pray for you," Sister Liz dutifully ended her letters. But I knew she prayed for sensible things like a proper understanding of *Paradise Lost* or a real appreciation of *The Waste Land*, not lost causes like my conversion.

Now we chatted easily on literary matters. The Christianity of King Lear was one topic: Sister Liz's determination to discuss James Joyce came as more of a surprise to me. Then I realized that she must have read his work. Of the two of us, it was I, not Sister Elizabeth, who shrank from discussing fully some aspects of Joyce's nature. I was the one who should draw the line in order not to shock her. Sister Liz on the other hand had a kind of sublime frankness about her remarks which left nothing to the imagination. It sprang. I realized, from innocence: my own reticence was rooted in guilt.

Only the fact that our returning steps had led us to the entrance to the nuns' little cemetery made Sister Liz draw breath. We paused and, by unspoken agreement, entered through the low gate. It was an out of the way place. The girls did not come here. The decision was ensured by the high dark hedge surrounding the grass. Rows of plain stone crosses marked the last resting places of the community. The inscription on each was identical in form, and minimal. Sister John Brodsky O.T.I. 1900-1935. Below the name and dates: R.I.P. And that was all.

The last cross in the sequence was the one I feared, but it could not be avoided. Yes, here it was. Sister Miriam Powerstock O.T.I. 1932-1973 R.I.P. At my side I noted that Sister Liz crossed herself. Then she held her rosary and her voice moved silently. I felt nothing, nothing at all. Then feelings did rush in, overwhelmingly, into the vacuum. I felt fiercely that there was no connexion, none at all between this plain stone cross and the young girl who had once been my friend. My compassion, such as it was, was reserved for the memory of Sister Edward who would soon

lie in the neighbouring earth. "I can't accept that this is anything to do with Rosa. I don't believe Rosa is here, you know." My aggressive voice rang out in the quiet graveyard. "Mother Church would agree with you about that," replied Sister Elizabeth mildly. "She's not here. Only her poor tormented earthly body lies here. May God have mercy on her soul." And she crossed herself again, with no reaction.

Abruptly I asked Sister Liz if she would accompany me across the fields to the tower. I pulled the key out of my pocket. It was a bright new Yale key. The key to the padlock which now secured the tower, as Mother Ancilla had instructed me. Not the ancient rusty key which had broken off during Rosa's frantic struggles to escape her self-imposed fate. By now I needed to exercise that tower for myself and Sister Liz with her warmth and compassion, her understanding of people beyond the narrow prescription of the convent, was the right person to accompany me. The evening's possible adventure had quite vanished from my mind.

As we skirted the fields, trying to avoid the squelching mire left by the rain, a later afternoon sun emerged from the barred clouds, illuminating the November landscape. Sister Elizabeth began to recite Wordsworth in her special faraway poetic voice, which, like her walk, had not changed. Her eyes rolled in wonder as she spoke. It was as though she was receiving a direct message from the poet, line by line.

It is a beautiful evening, calm
The holy time is quiet as a Nun,
Breathless with adoration...

By this time we were in sight of the tower, black square, shorter than I remembered, oh, the shrankings brought about by time—the sun was beginning to sink behind it. I was reminded of a card in the tarot pack: the Tower of Destruction, depicted by a tower very similar in design, out of which spilled unhappy falling people in medieval dress. Yes, Tower of Destruction indeed and Rosa's destruction above all. It seemed quite inappropriate under the circumstances to contemplate a late night rendezvous with some prankish schoolgirls pretending to be ghosts. I would lay my own ghost and then depart.

Dear Child! Dear Girl! that
the twilight with me here
If thou appear untouched by
solemn thought,
Thy nature is not therefore less
divine;
Thou liest in Abraham's
bosom all the year of
Sister Elizabeth's enormous
degradation was drawing to its
close.

"Somehow those last lines rather remind me of you, Jemima," she said afterwards. There was a charming note of hope in her voice. I realized that this literary reference was the nearest Sister Liz would ever get to probing my religious beliefs. I ignored the implied question. Besides, I had an ardent desire to

laugh at the idea of television in the guise of Abraham's bosom—Megalithic House. In any case, I was not untouched by solemn thought, rather the contrary. The sight of the Tower of Destruction was more upsetting than I had anticipated.

After a silence, Sister Elizabeth said simply: "I love that poem. I first learnt it as a girl. I am not sure it did not influence me towards the Church, and later my vocation. The idea of a nun, breathless in adoration. So calm. So free. I'm a convert you know. I was received into the church when I was twenty-one."

"Quiet as a nun," I repeated. To me they sounded ironic words. Where was the quiet in this seething community of neurotic women, many of them frustrated in one way or the other, quite out of touch with all that was good in the human world? Many of them would do better to return to the world and find their own peace, than reside in this false quiet. As Beatrice O'Dowd had done. Only someone like Sister Elizabeth with her unshakable love of literature probably escaped a measure of frustration.

We unlocked the padlock—new, like the key—and entered the tower. The air was dank. Since the ground floor was windowless it was dark. By the light of the open door we climbed up the wooden ladder to the first floor. We went in single file. I let Sister Elizabeth lead the way. On the first floor there would be one window high up in the far wall, overlooking the farm lands beyond. You could neither see the convent from the tower nor be seen from it. A further window in the first floor, on the convent side, had been blocked up in the nineteenth century.

Although the tower was officially out of bounds, in my day at school it had been a fashionable dare to purloin the conspicuously large key from the portress. And pay an illicit visit to Nelly's Nest. I recalled some furniture, a wooden table, a large chair, a rocking chair. I thought, an empty fireplace. Even in summer the thick stone walls gave off an unpleasant atmosphere of damp and chill.

"The community came and tended to the tower. After it happened," Sister Liz observed over her shoulder as we climbed. She meant: you won't find anything distressing here, as in the graveyard. She said aloud: "And no-one has been here since."

I believed her. Once again my feelings had frozen. I gazed up at Sister Elizabeth's retreating black back, her near black feet with their gossamer over black strap shoes, black stockings, black skirt looped up at the sides for walking the muddy fields. Sister Elizabeth paced slightly. The door banged to downstairs, removing our light. But at the same moment Sister Elizabeth reached the trap door and pushed it open. She peered her head through the trap door.

There was an audible gasp and Sister Elizabeth stopped

quite still on the last rung of the ladder.

Then there was silence. She did not move.

"Sister Liz—" I said after a minute, anxiously.

"It's all right, my child," she replied, rather heavily. "Just that I had rather a shock."

"What is it?" I could see nothing from behind her.

"Nothing really. It must be the children. A silly practical joke." I was going frantic. Much more slowly, Sister Elizabeth lumbered up the last rung and vanished into the room. I clambered up after her at speed. When I entered the room, Sister Elizabeth was leaning one hand on the table and panting.

The only other piece of furniture in the room was a large wooden rocking chair. Just as I remembered, in fact. Draped in the chair and over it was a nun's black habit. Including a veil and rosary and all the other accoutrements you would need if you were to dress yourself up as a nun. Or to dress yourself if you were a nun.

At first glance there was certainly the impression of a black nun sitting there in the chair. A faceless nun. But the impression did not outlast the first second. We were looking at a set of empty and thus lifeless black clothes. Except—"No shoes or stockings," I thought suddenly, remembering my glimpses of Sister Elizabeth's stockings and gossamer.

"The children. It must be the children. They have an innocent sense of humour. They don't realize how distressing these things can be," Sister Elizabeth muttered. She made no move to touch the clothes. I noticed, "I'll tell Mother Ancilla and someone will fetch the habit in the morning."

I thought: Yes. The children. The children—with their innocent sense of humour—had prepared some kind of reception for me tonight. A sort of religious scarecrow. And I, by my early visit, had sprung their trap. I writhed my nose. In the damp air, another smell disturbed me. A smell which should not have been there. For a moment I could not quite place it, although it was one of the most familiar smells of my urban life. I gazed around and my eye fell on the empty fireplace. Not quite empty. At the back of the fireplace carelessly thrown down were a host of cigarette stubs. No attempt had been made to conceal them.

I wondered if the nun's habit which was to greet me tonight had after all intended to be empty. Maybe I should have to pay a return visit to the Tower. It was an unlikely ghost who smoked Gauloises. And in such quantity. My spirits rose. Forewarned was traditionally forearmed. The Black Nun, habit and all, could expect a somewhat cynical reception from me. In the last hours of the evening.

© Antonia Fraser, 1977.
Quiet as a Nun, by Antonia Fraser, will be published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson on May 26, at £3.95.

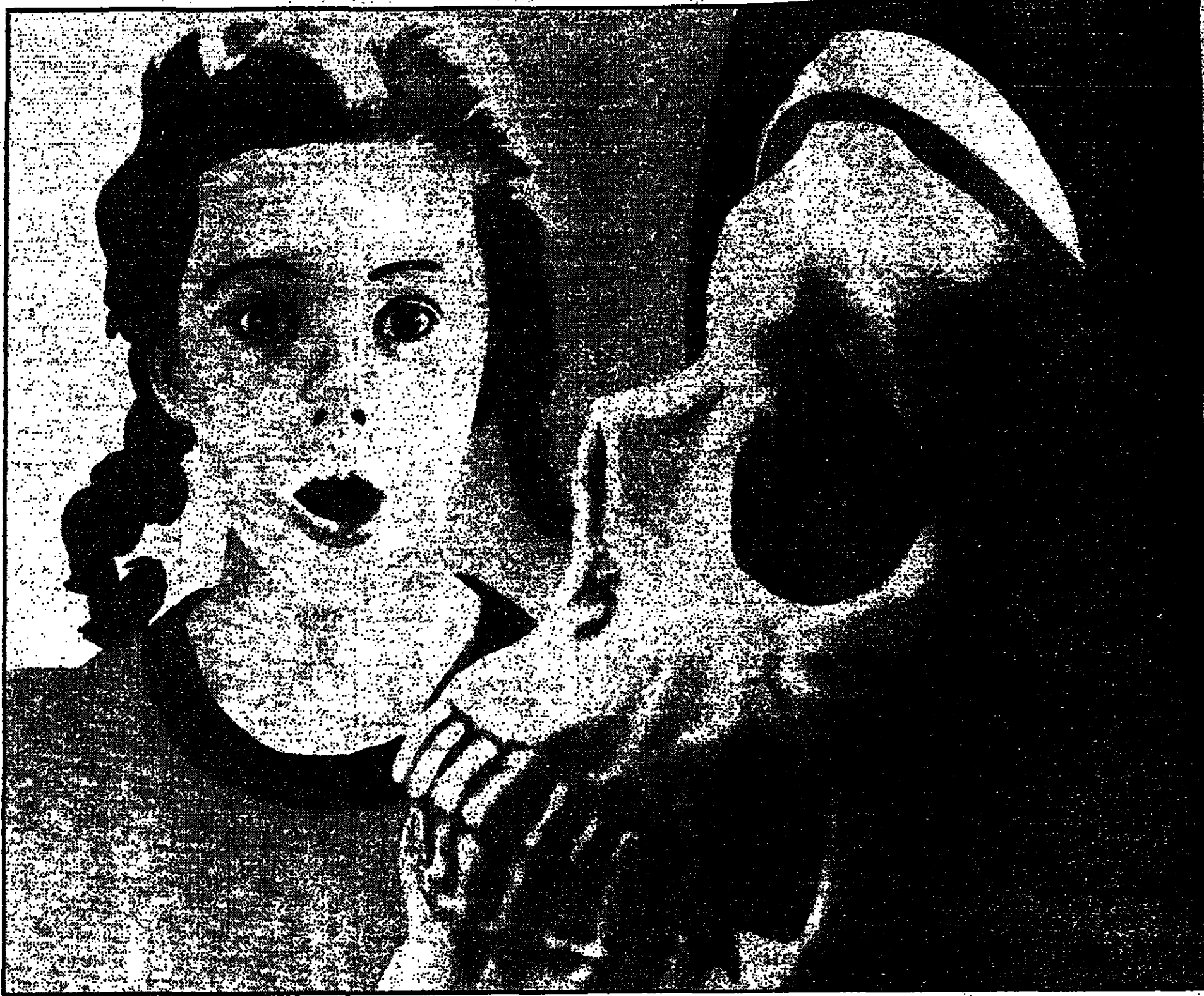


Illustration by Franklin Wilson

Art

The treasures of Holkham

he visitor to Holkham Hall in Norfolk, overwhelmed by its architectural splendour and the richness of its paintings and furniture, could easily be forgiven for not realising that it also contains a magnificent collection of drawings, particularly since most of them are highly well kept in their original frames. Some are, however, framed, and until May 27 there is a precious opportunity to see over 100 of these in the exhibition at Holkham, Old Road, Street, which is open from 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays.

The greatest of Holkham's treasures is the collection of drawings by Thomas Coke, first Earl of Leicester (1687-1759), also known as "The Earl of Leicester's Collection". It was acquired by Coke, who was born in the French county of Normandy, in 1687, and who was a pupil of Pierre de Coudray, who is represented by a large, highly finished drawing of the Virgin and Child, which is one of the most important influences on the formation of the young man's taste.

Lut's fame as a collector of drawings, of which he owned some 14,000, almost overshadowed his reputation as a statesman, and he may have communicated his enthusiasm to Coke, who not only purchased pictures from him, but was also the recipient of the gift of two delightful pastels, each depicting the "Head of a Girl", whom an early tradition identifies as the artist's daughter. One of them is inscribed with a dedication to the Earl: "Sige. Coke".

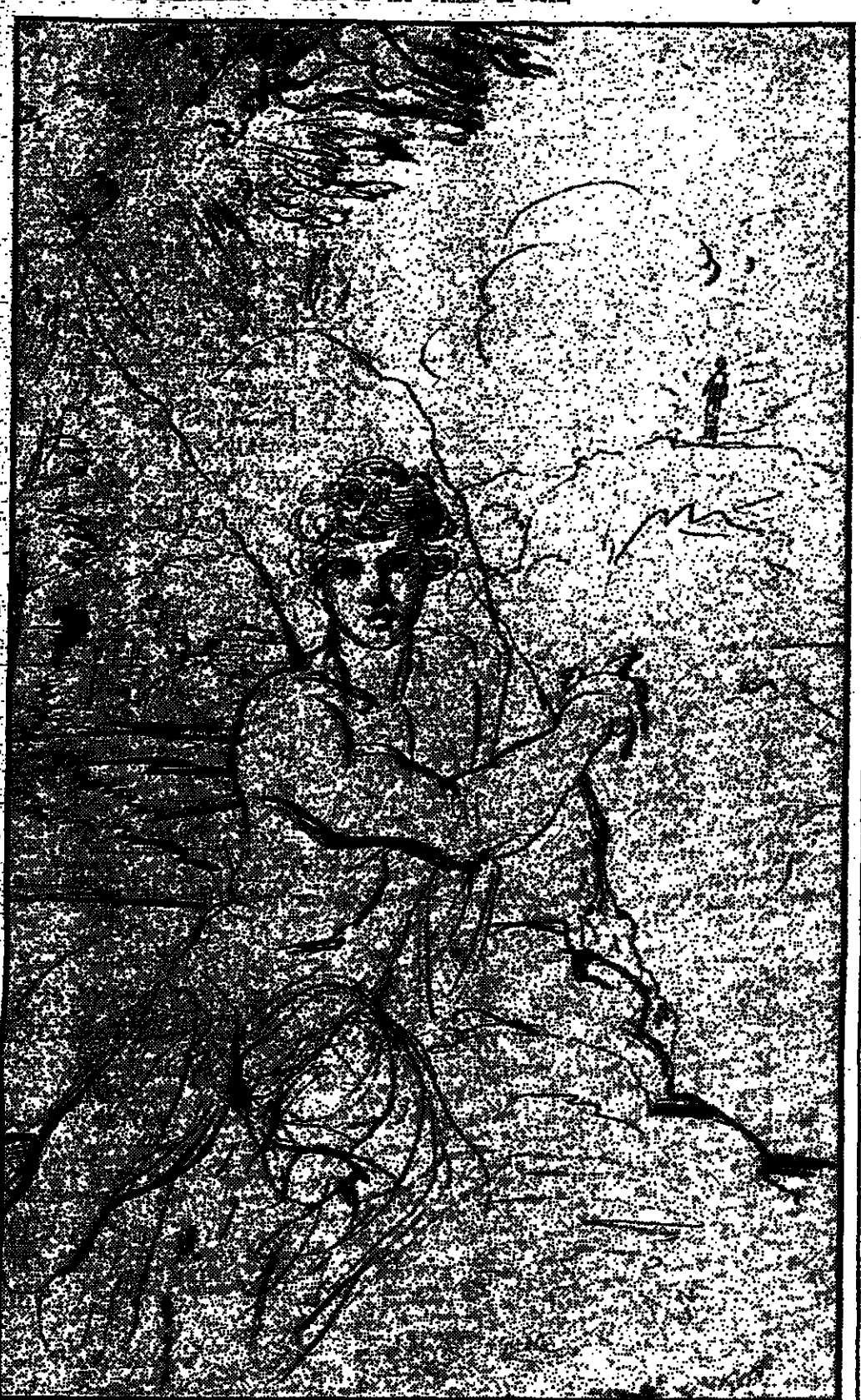
Two other drawings by Lut are included in the exhibition, one of which, "Jael and Sisera", is "in the words of Chlois Whiffield and Gabriel Nagnon who compiled the annotated catalogue of the Earl's collection, is the most admired artist in the late seventeenth century. Six drawings by him are exhibited, two of which depict "The Annunciation", though both apparently late in the same development, they are markedly different in style, one a rather static composition executed in red chalk and the other a more dynamic, "latter" drawing, which has been acquired by the Earl in the 1750s.

through the intermediary of Gavin Hamilton, the Scots Neoclassical painter, whose attributions have not always survived modern critical scrutiny. Sometimes, however, a drawing has turned out to be more than just interesting, such as the fine "Mary and Child", acquired from Hamilton as a gift from the artist, which comes as a refreshing contrast to the monotonous dryness of so many of the drawings in the collection. One of the most striking of all is the "St. John the Baptist", which is a masterpiece of the artist's late style, and is a masterpiece of the artist's late style, and is a masterpiece of the artist's late style.

Thomas Coke's favourite landscape artist was Claude, to whose paintings, a whole room at Holkham is dedicated, and it is not surprising to find several of his drawings in the collection, some of which are related to identifiable paintings, such as the astonishingly broad and vigorous "View of Genoa", which comes as a refreshing contrast to the monotonous dryness of so many of the drawings in the collection. One of the most striking of all is the "St. John the Baptist", which is a masterpiece of the artist's late style, and is a masterpiece of the artist's late style, and is a masterpiece of the artist's late style.

moving at the age of 30 to Rome, where his romantic style frightened away the more timid potential patrons, although he did obtain the prestigious invitation to collaborate in the decoration of the Palazzo del Quirinale, to which he contributed what is generally accepted as his masterpiece in fresco, "Joseph greeting his Brethren". An impressive drawing for this is exhibited, one of many that the artist produced for a carefully contrived composition that, as the catalogue points out, derives from Raphael. In contrast, the arresting directness and power of his "St. John the Baptist" seem utterly spontaneous and give this superb study an intensity that makes it stand out from its more conventional neighbours. On Agnew's tailored velvet walls.

Jeffery Daniels



Mala's St John the Baptist: pen and brown ink over red chalk.

Chess

My top ten

hich are the ten most interesting personalities in the story of chess? Perhaps this is a question that can never be answered properly, or, at any rate, to the satisfaction of everybody since all judgment such matters must inevitably be subjective. *Chacón* a son of applies here and the latter is further complicated by the fact that the world of chess seems, and has always seemed, full of the most colourful, not to say eccentric, characters.

So much so that I think I have to limit my choice to the hundred years. A pity, in that when one thinks of the magnificent panorama of colourful figures that chess has produced since its invention some 1,500 years ago, there is a plethora even if it starts at the point when the old form of chess was played in the new or modern form of game round about the 16th century. There was the *addin* who was a great *fold* player at the court of the *Mogul* Emperor, in early 15th century, either he was the one with lamp is not recorded but modestly confessed to have passed all his time among chess masters of his age. I have travelled through Iraq, Persia and Transoxiana, and are there men with many a star in this art, and I have yed with all of them, and ough the favour of him who Adorable and Most High, I e come off victorious, only a man of a generous ortion, willing to admit it, nor all his doing. I have many such myself.

Or, passing to Europe, consider the two great Italians, Paolo Boi and Leonardo da Curi. Both, after countless lives involving, among things, rescue of either themselves or their relatives by defeating pirates at chess, perished by the normal processes of the time, viz. poison at the hands of jealous rivals.

Mové on in time to the seventeenth century when the great Italian player was Grandi, Calabrese who, at the age of 21, won 5,000 crowns playing at the court of the Duke of Lorraine. I should have liked to have had his opinion of English players since, after his sojourn in France, he came to England and was robbed of all his money by thieves on his way to London.

Most of all, I should have liked to have spoken to the *Sire* de Legal, Philidor's teacher and the man who played the Philidor mate before Philidor arrived on the scene. Did not, a fervent collector of odd characters, refer to him in his novel, *Le Neveu de Rameau*, when describing the scene at the Café de la Régence. "There the most surprising moves can be seen, and the worst conversation can be heard; for, if one can be a legal and a great chessplayer like Legal, one can as well be a great chessplayer and a fool like Foubert and Mayot."

Now to my 10 from the last 100 years: I think they would be, in roughly chronological order, Zukertort, Charousek, Rubinstein, Nimzowitsch, Alekhine, Breyer, Tartakower, Bronstein, Tal and Larsen. Reserves could be Carlos Torre, Winawer, Pillsbury and Marshall; and a half a dozen other American masters, such as Duke, who

proud friend of Al Capone, and William Weaver Adams, author of *White to play and win* and a sodium bicarbonate addict. It would take me far too long to justify and explain this list. Briefly, then, I would like from Zukertort an account of his experiences in the wars between Prussia and Denmark; from Charousek how long it took him to copy out the "Handbuch"; from Rubinstein what it was like to go to him that made him a great master; from Nimzowitsch whether he invented his system to disguise his purely tactical approach to the game; from Alekhine that he really thought of Capablanca; and from the rest how they came by their amazing innovations.

Fortunately the last three are still very much with us and are a constant delight and pleasure for the connoisseur of the strange and paradoxical.

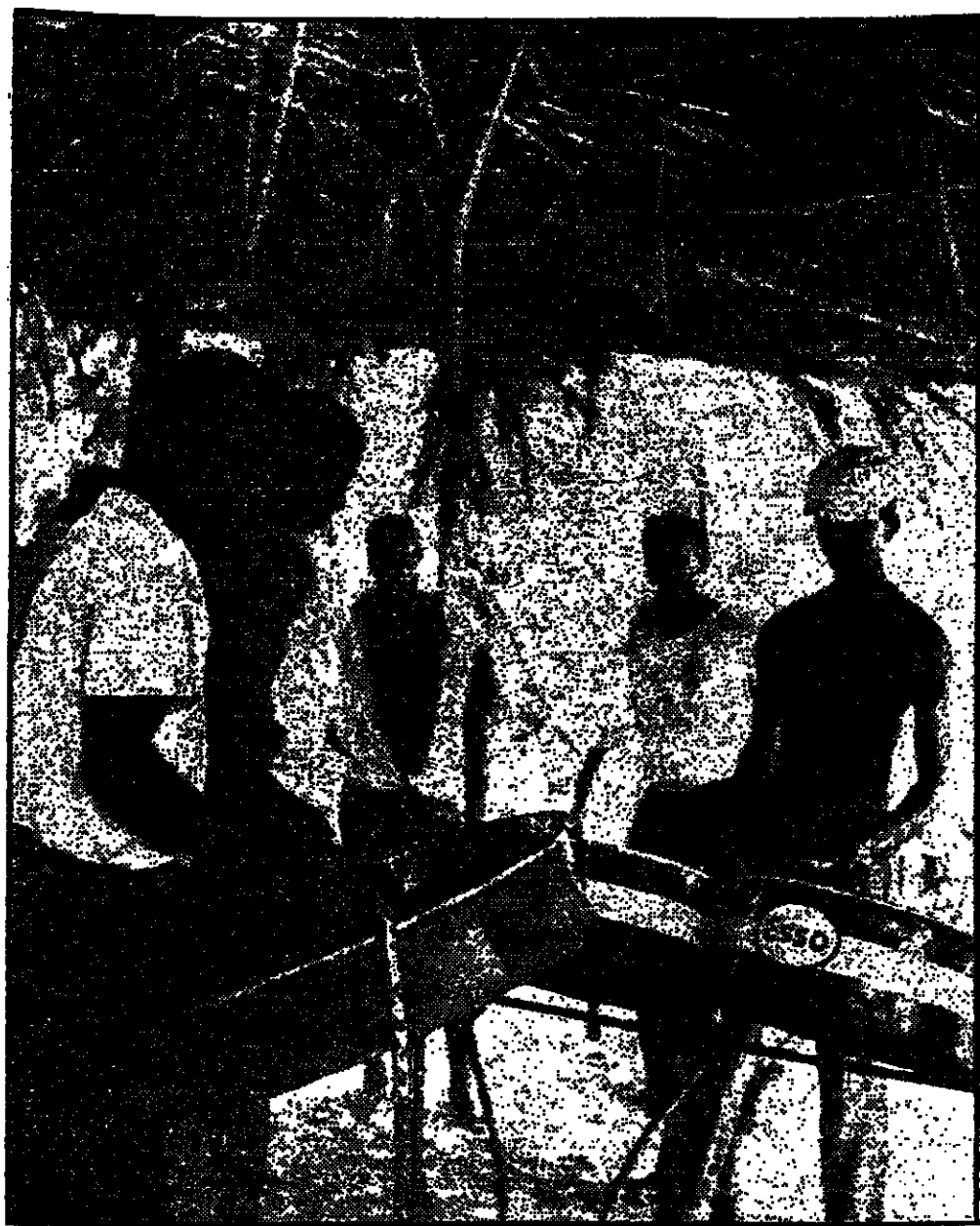
As illustration, a beautiful game played at Sandomierz in Poland last year.

White: Bronstein. Black: Dubos. OP Dutch Defence.

1. P-Q4 P-KB4 2. P-K4 3. P-QB5 P-KB5 4. P-QB3 P-KB3 5. P-QB3 P-KB3 6. P-QB3 P-KB3 7. P-QB3 P-KB3 8. P-QB3 P-KB3 9. P-QB3 P-KB3 10. P-QB3 P-KB3 11. P-QB3 P-KB3 12. P-QB3 P-KB3 13. P-QB3 P-KB3 14. P-QB3 P-KB3 15. P-QB3 P-KB3 16. P-QB3 P-KB3 17. P-QB3 P-KB3 18. P-QB3 P-KB3 19. P-QB3 P-KB3 20. P-QB3 P-KB3 21. P-QB3 P-KB3 22. P-QB3 P-KB3 23. P-QB3 P-KB3 24. P-QB3 P-KB3 25. P-QB3 P-KB3 26. P-QB3 P-KB3 27. P-QB3 P-KB3 28. P-QB3 P-KB3 29. P-QB3 P-KB3 30. P-QB3 P-KB3 31. P-QB3 P-KB3 32. P-QB3 P-KB3 33. P-QB3 P-KB3 34. P-QB3 P-KB3 35. P-QB3 P-KB3 36. P-QB3 P-KB3 37. P-QB3 P-KB3 38. P-QB3 P-KB3 39. P-QB3 P-KB3 40. P-QB3 P-KB3 41. P-QB3 P-KB3 42. P-QB3 P-KB3 43. P-QB3 P-KB3 44. P-QB3 P-KB3 45. P-QB3 P-KB3 46. P-QB3 P-KB3 47. P-QB3 P-KB3 48. P-QB3 P-KB3 49. P-QB3 P-KB3 50. P-QB3 P-KB3 51. P-QB3 P-KB3 52. P-QB3 P-KB3 53. P-QB3 P-KB3 54. P-QB3 P-KB3 55. P-QB3 P-KB3 56. P-QB3 P-KB3 57. P-QB3 P-KB3 58. P-QB3 P-KB3 59. P-QB3 P-KB3 60. P-QB3 P-KB3 61. P-QB3 P-KB3 62. P-QB3 P-KB3 63. P-QB3 P-KB3 64. P-QB3 P-KB3 65. P-QB3 P-KB3 66. P-QB3 P-KB3 67. P-QB3 P-KB3 68. P-QB3 P-KB3 69. P-QB3 P-KB3 70. P-QB3 P-KB3 71. P-QB3 P-KB3 72. P-QB3 P-KB3 73. P-QB3 P-KB3 74. P-QB3 P-KB3 75. P-QB3 P-KB3 76. P-QB3 P-KB3 77. P-QB3 P-KB3 78. P-QB3 P-KB3 79. P-QB3 P-KB3 80. P-QB3 P-KB3 81. P-QB3 P-KB3 82. P-QB3 P-KB3 83. P-QB3 P-KB3 84. P-QB3 P-KB3 85. P-QB3 P-KB3 86. P-QB3 P-KB3 87. P-QB3 P-KB3 88. P-QB3 P-KB3 89. P-QB3 P-KB3 90. P-QB3 P-KB3 91. P-QB3 P-KB3 92. P-QB3 P-KB3 93. P-QB3 P-KB3 94. P-QB3 P-KB3 95. P-QB3 P-KB3 96. P-QB3 P-KB3 97. P-QB3 P-KB3 98. P-QB3 P-KB3 99. P-QB3 P-KB3 100. P-QB3 P-KB3 101. P-QB3 P-KB3 102. P-QB3 P-KB3 103. P-QB3 P-KB3 104. P-QB3 P-KB3 105. P-QB3 P-KB3 106. P-QB3 P-KB3 107. P-QB3 P-KB3 108. P-QB3 P-KB3 109. P-QB3 P-KB3 110. P-QB3 P-KB3 111. P-QB3 P-KB3 112. P-QB3 P-KB3 113. P-QB3 P-KB3 114. P-QB3 P-KB3 115. P-QB3 P-KB3 116. P-QB3 P-KB3 117. P-QB3 P-KB3 118. P-QB3 P-KB3 119. P-QB3 P-KB3 120. P-QB3 P-KB3 121. P-QB3 P-KB3 122. P-QB3 P-KB3 123. P-QB3 P-KB3 124. P-QB3 P-KB3 125. P-QB3 P-KB3 126. P-QB3 P-KB3 127. P-QB3 P-KB3 128. P-QB3 P-KB3 129. P-QB3 P-KB3 130. P-QB3 P-KB3 131. P-QB3 P-KB3 132. P-QB3 P-KB3 133. P-QB3 P-KB3 134. P-QB3 P-KB3 135. P-QB3 P-KB3 136. P-QB3 P-KB3 137. P-QB3 P-KB3 138. P-QB3 P-KB3 139. P-QB3 P-KB3 140. P-QB3 P-KB3 141. P-QB3 P-KB3 142. P-QB3 P-KB3 143. P-QB3 P-KB3 144. P-QB3 P-KB3 145. P-QB3 P-KB3 146. P-QB3 P-KB3 147. P-QB3 P-KB3 148. P-QB3 P-KB3 149. P-QB3 P-KB3 150. P-QB3 P-KB3 151. P-QB3 P-KB3 152. P-QB3 P-KB3 153. P-QB3 P-KB3 154. P-QB3 P-KB3 155. P-QB3 P-KB3 156. P-QB3 P-KB3 157. P-QB3 P-KB3 158. P-QB3 P-KB3 159. P-QB3 P-KB3 160. P-QB3 P-KB3 161. P-QB3 P-KB3 162. P-QB3 P-KB3 163. P-QB3 P-KB3 164. P-QB3 P-KB3 165. P-QB3 P-KB3 166. P-QB3 P-KB3 167. P-QB3 P-KB3 168. P-QB3 P-KB3 169. P-QB3 P-KB3 170. P-QB3 P-KB3 171. P-QB3 P-KB3 172. P-QB3 P-KB3 173. P-QB3 P-KB3 174. P-QB3 P-KB3 175. P-QB3 P-KB3 176. P-QB3 P-KB3 177. P-QB3 P-KB3 178. P-QB3 P-KB3 179. P-QB3 P-KB3 180. P-QB3 P-KB3 181. P-QB3 P-KB3 182. P-QB3 P-KB3 183. P-QB3 P-KB3 184. P-QB3 P-KB3 185. P-QB3 P-KB3 186. P-QB3 P-KB3 187. P-QB3 P-KB3 188. P-QB3 P-KB3 189. P-QB3 P-KB3 190. P-QB3 P-KB3 191. P-QB3 P-KB3 192. P-QB3 P-KB3 193. P-QB3 P-KB3 194. P-QB3 P-KB3 195. P-QB3 P-KB3 196. P-QB3 P-KB3 197. P-QB3 P-KB3 198. P-QB3 P-KB3 199. P-QB3 P-KB3 200. P-QB3 P-KB3 201. P-QB3 P-KB3 202. P-QB3 P-KB3 203. P-QB3 P-KB3 204. P-QB3 P-KB3 205. P-QB3 P-KB3 206. P-QB3 P-KB3 207. P-QB3 P-KB3 208. P-QB3 P-KB3 209. P-QB3 P-KB3 210. P-QB3 P-KB3 211. P-QB3 P-KB3 212. P-QB3 P-KB3 213. P-QB3 P-KB3 214. P-QB3 P-KB3 215. P-QB3 P-KB3 216. P-QB3 P-KB3 217. P-QB3 P-KB3 218. P-QB3 P-KB3 219. P-QB3 P-KB3 220. P-QB3 P-KB3 221. P-QB3 P-KB3 222. P-QB3 P-KB3 223. P-QB3 P-KB3 224. P-QB3 P-KB3 225. P-QB3 P-KB3 226. P-QB3 P-KB3 227. P-QB3 P-KB3 228. P-QB3 P-KB3 229. P-QB3 P-KB3 230. P-QB3 P-KB3 231. P-QB3 P-KB3 232. P-QB3 P-KB3 233. P-QB3 P-KB3 234. P-QB3 P-KB3 235. P-QB3 P-KB3 236. P-QB3 P-KB3 237. P-QB3 P-KB3 238. P-QB3 P-KB3 239. P-QB3 P-KB3 240. P-QB3 P-KB3 241. P-QB3 P-KB3 242. P-QB3 P-KB3 243. P-QB3 P-KB3 244. P-QB3 P-KB3 245. P-QB3 P-KB3 246. P-QB3 P-KB3 247. P-QB3 P-KB3 248. P-QB3 P-KB3 249. P-QB3 P-KB3 250. P-QB3 P-KB3 251. P-QB3 P-KB3 252. P-QB3 P-KB3 253. P-QB3 P-KB3 254. P-QB3 P-KB3 255. P-QB3 P-KB3 256. P-QB3 P-KB3 257. P-QB3 P-KB3 258. P-QB3 P-KB3 259. P-QB3 P-KB3 260. P-QB3 P-KB3 261. P-QB3 P-KB3 262. P-QB3 P-KB3 263. P-QB3 P-KB3 264. P-QB3 P-KB3 265. P-QB3 P-KB3 266. P-QB3 P-KB3 267. P-QB3 P-KB3 268. P-QB3 P-KB3 269. P-QB3 P-KB3 270. P-QB3 P-KB3 271. P-QB3 P-KB3 272. P-QB3 P-KB3 273. P-QB3 P-KB3 274. P-QB3 P-KB3 275. P-QB3 P-KB3 276. P-QB3 P-KB3 277. P-QB3 P-KB3 278. P-QB3 P-KB3 279. P-QB3 P-KB3 280. P-QB3 P-KB3 281. P-QB3 P-KB3 282. P-QB3 P-KB3 283. P-QB3 P-KB3 284. P-QB3 P-KB3 285. P-QB3 P-KB3 286. P-QB3 P-KB3 287. P-QB3 P-KB3 288. P-QB3 P-KB3 289. P-QB3 P-KB3 290. P-QB3 P-KB3 291. P-QB3 P-KB3 292. P-QB3 P-KB3 293. P-QB3 P-KB3 294. P-QB3 P-KB3 295. P-QB3 P-KB3 296. P-QB3 P-KB3 297. P-QB3 P-KB3 298. P-QB3 P-KB3 299. P-QB3 P-KB3 300. P-QB3 P-KB3 301. P-QB3 P-KB3 302. P-QB3 P-KB3 303. P-QB3 P-KB3 304. P-QB3 P-KB3 305. P-QB3 P-KB3 306. P-QB3 P-KB3 307. P-QB3 P-KB3 308. P-QB3 P-KB3 309. P-QB3 P-KB3 310. P-QB3 P-KB3 311. P-QB3 P-KB3 312. P-QB3 P-KB3 313. P-QB3 P-KB3 314. P-QB3 P-KB3 315. P-QB3 P-KB3 316. P-QB3 P-KB3 317. P-QB3 P-KB3 318. P-QB3 P-KB3 319. P-QB3 P-KB3 320. P-QB3 P-KB3 321. P-QB3 P-KB3 322. P-QB3 P-KB3 323. P-QB3 P-KB3 324. P-QB3 P-KB3 325. P-QB3 P-KB3 326. P-QB3 P-KB3 327. P-QB3 P-KB3 328. P-QB3 P-KB3 329. P-QB3 P-KB3 330. P-QB3 P-KB3 331. P-QB3 P-KB3 332. P-QB3 P-KB3 333. P-QB3 P-KB3 334. P-QB3 P-KB3 335. P-QB3 P-KB3 336. P-QB3 P-KB3 337. P-QB3 P-KB3 338. P-QB3 P-KB3 339. P-QB3 P-KB3 340. P-QB3 P-KB3 341. P-QB3 P-KB3 342. P-QB3 P-KB3 343. P-QB3 P-KB3 344. P-QB3 P-KB3 345. P-QB3 P-KB3 346. P-QB3 P-KB3 347. P-QB3 P-KB3 348. P-QB3 P-KB3 349. P-QB3 P-KB3 350. P-QB3 P-KB3 351. P-QB3 P-KB3 352. P-QB3 P-KB3 353. P-QB3 P-KB3 354. P-QB3 P-KB3 355. P-QB3 P-KB3 356. P-QB3 P-KB3 357. P-QB3 P-KB3 358. P-QB3 P-KB3 359. P-QB3 P-KB3 360. P-QB3 P-KB3 361. P-QB3 P-KB3 362. P-QB3 P-KB3 363. P-QB3 P-KB3 364. P-QB3 P-KB3 365. P-QB3 P-KB3 366. P-QB3 P-KB3 367. P-QB3 P-KB3 368. P-QB3 P-KB3 369. P-QB3 P-KB3 370. P-QB3 P-KB3 371. P-QB3 P-KB3 372. P-QB3 P-KB3 373. P-QB3 P-KB3 374. P-QB3 P-KB3 375. P-QB3 P-KB3 376. P-QB3 P-KB3 377. P-QB3 P-KB3 378. P-QB3 P-KB3 379. P-QB3 P-KB3 380. P-QB3 P-KB3 381. P-QB3 P-KB3 382. P-QB3 P-KB3 383. P-QB3 P-KB3 384. P-QB3 P-KB3 385. P-QB3 P-KB3 386. P-QB3 P-KB3 387. P-QB3 P-KB3 388. P-QB3 P-KB3 389. P-QB3 P-KB3 390. P-QB3 P-KB3 391. P-QB3 P-KB3 392. P-QB3 P-KB3 393. P-QB3 P-KB3 394. P-QB3 P-KB3 395. P-QB3 P-KB3 396. P-QB3 P-KB3 397. P-QB3 P-KB3 398. P-QB3 P-KB3 399. P-QB3 P-KB3 400. P-QB3 P-KB3 401. P-QB3 P-KB3 402. P-QB3 P-KB3 403. P-QB3 P-KB3 404. P-QB3 P-KB3 405. P-QB3 P-KB3 406. P-QB3 P-KB3 407. P-QB3 P-KB3 408. P-QB3 P-KB3 409. P-QB3 P-KB3 410. P-QB3 P-KB3 411. P-QB3 P-KB3 412. P-QB3 P-KB3 413. P-QB3 P-KB3 414. P-QB3 P-KB3 415. P-QB3 P-KB3 416. P-QB3 P-KB3 417. P-QB3 P-KB3 418. P-QB3 P-KB3 419. P-QB3 P-KB3 420. P-QB3 P-KB3 421. P-QB3 P-KB3 422. P-QB3 P-KB3 423. P-QB3 P-KB3 424. P-QB3 P-KB3 425. P-QB3 P-KB3 426. P-QB3 P-KB3 427. P-QB3 P-KB3 428. P-QB3 P-KB3 429. P-QB3 P-KB3 430. P-QB3 P-KB3 431. P-QB3 P-KB3 432. P-QB3 P-KB3 433. P-QB3 P-KB3 434. P-QB3 P-KB3 435. P-QB3 P-KB3 436. P-QB3 P-KB3 437. P-QB3 P-KB3 438. P-QB3 P-KB3 439. P-QB3 P-KB3 440. P-QB3 P-KB3 441. P-QB3 P-KB3 442. P-QB3 P-KB3 443. P-QB3 P-KB3 444. P-QB3 P-KB3 445. P-QB3 P-KB3 446. P-QB3 P-KB3 447. P-QB3 P-KB3 448. P-QB3 P-KB3 449. P-QB3 P-KB3 450. P-QB3 P-KB3 451. P-QB3 P-KB3 452. P-QB3 P-KB3 453. P-QB3 P-KB3 454. P-QB3 P-KB3 455. P-QB3 P-KB3 456. P-QB3 P-KB3 457. P-QB3 P-KB3 458. P-QB3 P-KB3 459. P-QB3 P-KB3 460. P-QB3 P-KB3 461. P-QB3 P-KB3 462. P-QB3 P-KB3 463. P-QB3 P-KB3 464. P-QB3 P-KB3 465. P-QB3 P-KB3 466. P-QB3 P-KB3 467. P-QB3 P-KB3 468. P-QB3 P-KB3 469. P-QB3 P-KB3 470. P-QB3 P-KB3 471. P-QB3 P-KB3 472. P-QB3 P-KB3 473. P-QB3 P-KB3 474. P-QB3 P-KB3 475. P-QB3 P-KB3 476. P-QB3 P-KB3 477. P-QB3 P-KB3 478. P-QB3 P-KB3 479. P-QB3 P-KB3 480. P-QB3 P-KB3 481. P-QB3 P-KB3 482. P-QB3 P-KB3 483. P-QB3 P-KB3 484. P-QB3 P-KB3 485. P-QB3 P-KB3 486. P-QB3 P-KB3 487. P-QB3 P-KB3 488. P-QB3 P-KB3 489. P-QB3 P-KB3 490. P-QB3 P-KB3 491. P-QB3 P-KB3 492. P-QB3 P-KB3 493. P-QB3 P-KB3 494. P-QB3 P-KB3 495. P-QB3 P-KB3 496. P-QB3 P-KB3 497. P-QB3 P-KB3 498. P-QB3 P-KB3 499. P-QB3 P-KB3 500. P-QB3 P-KB3 501. P-QB3 P-KB3 502. P-QB3 P-KB3 503. P-QB3 P-KB3 504. P-QB3 P-KB3 505. P-QB3 P-KB3 506. P-QB3 P-KB3 507. P-QB3 P-KB3 508. P-QB3 P-KB3 509. P-QB3 P-KB3 510. P-QB3 P-KB3 511. P-QB3 P-KB3 512. P-QB3 P-KB3 513. P-QB3 P-KB3 514. P-QB3 P-KB3 515. P-QB3 P-KB3 516. P-QB3 P-KB3 517. P-QB3 P-KB3 518. P-QB3 P-KB3 519. P-QB3 P-KB3 520. P-QB3 P-KB3 521. P-QB3 P-KB3 522. P-QB3 P-KB3 523. P-QB3 P-KB3 524. P-QB3 P-KB3 525. P-QB3 P-KB3 526. P-QB3 P-KB3 527. P-QB3 P-KB3 528. P-QB3 P-KB3 529. P-QB3 P-KB3 530. P-QB3 P-KB3 531. P-QB3 P-KB3 532. P-QB3 P-KB3 533. P-QB3 P-KB3 534. P-QB3 P-KB3 535. P-QB3 P-KB3 536. P-QB3 P-KB3 537. P-QB3 P-KB3 538. P-QB3 P-KB3 539. P-QB3 P-KB3 540. P-QB3 P-KB3 541. P-QB3 P-KB3 542. P-QB3 P-KB3 543. P-QB3 P-KB3 544. P-QB3 P-KB3 545. P-QB3 P-KB3 546. P-QB3 P-KB3 547. P-QB3 P-KB3 548. P-QB3 P-KB3 549. P-QB3 P-KB3 550. P-QB3 P-KB3 551. P-QB3 P-KB3 552. P-QB3 P-KB3 553. P-QB3 P-KB3 554. P-QB3 P-KB3 555. P-QB3 P-KB3 556. P-QB3 P-KB3 557. P-QB3 P-KB3 558. P-QB3 P-KB3 559. P-QB3 P-KB3 560. P-QB3 P-KB3 561. P-QB3 P-KB3 562. P-QB3 P-KB3 563. P-QB3 P-KB3 564. P-QB3 P-KB3 565. P-QB3 P-KB3 566. P-QB3 P-KB3 567. P-QB3 P-KB3 568. P-QB3 P-KB3 569. P-QB3 P-KB3 570. P-QB3 P-KB3 571. P-QB3 P-KB3 572. P-QB3 P-KB3 573. P-QB3 P-KB3 574. P-QB3 P-KB3 575. P-QB3 P-KB3 576. P-QB3 P-KB3 577. P-QB3 P-KB3 578. P-QB3 P-KB3 579. P-QB3 P-KB3 580. P-QB3 P-KB3 581. P-QB3 P-KB3 582. P-QB3 P-KB3 583. P-QB3 P-KB3 584. P-QB3 P-KB3 585. P-QB3 P-KB3 586. P-QB3 P-KB3 587. P-QB3 P-KB3 588. P-QB3 P-KB3 589. P-QB3 P-KB3 590. P-QB3 P-KB3 591. P-QB3 P-KB3 592. P-QB3 P-KB3 593. P-QB3 P-KB3 594. P-QB3 P-KB3 595. P-QB3 P-KB3 596. P-QB3 P-KB3 597. P-QB3 P-KB3 598. P-QB3 P-KB3 599. P-QB3 P-KB3 600. P-QB3 P-KB3 601. P-QB3 P-KB3 602. P-QB3 P-KB3 603. P-QB3 P-KB3 604. P-QB3 P-KB3 605. P-QB3 P-KB3 606. P-QB3 P-KB3 607. P-QB3 P-KB3 608. P-QB3 P-KB3 609. P-QB3 P-KB3 610. P-QB3 P-KB3 611. P-QB3 P-KB3 612. P-QB3 P-KB3 613. P-QB3 P-KB3 614. P-QB3 P-KB3 615. P-QB3 P-KB3 616. P-QB3 P-KB3 617. P-QB3 P-KB3 618. P-QB3 P-KB3 619. P-QB3 P-KB3 620. P-QB3 P-KB3 621. P-QB3 P-KB3 622. P-QB3 P-KB3 623. P-QB3 P-KB3 624. P-QB3 P-KB3 625. P-QB3 P-KB3 626. P-QB3 P-KB3 627. P-QB3 P-KB3 628. P-QB3 P-KB3 629. P-QB3 P-KB3 630. P-QB3 P-KB3 631. P-QB3 P-KB3 632. P-QB3 P-KB3 633. P-QB3 P-KB3 634. P-QB3 P-KB3 635. P-QB3 P-KB3 636. P-QB3 P-KB3 637. P-QB3 P-KB3 638. P-QB3 P-KB3 639. P-QB3 P-KB3 640. P-QB3 P-KB3 641. P-QB3 P-KB3 642. P-QB3 P-KB3 643. P-QB3 P-KB3 644. P-QB3 P-KB3 645. P-QB3 P-KB3 646. P-QB3 P-KB3 647. P-QB3 P-KB3 648. P-QB3 P-KB3 649. P-QB3 P-KB3 650. P-QB3 P-KB3 651. P-QB3 P-KB3 652. P-QB3 P-KB3 653. P-QB3 P-KB3 654. P-QB3 P-KB3 655. P-QB3 P-KB3 656. P-QB3 P-KB3 657. P-QB3 P-KB3 658. P-QB3 P-KB3 659. P-QB3 P-KB3 660. P-QB3 P-KB3 661. P-QB3 P-KB3 662. P-QB3 P-KB3 663. P-QB3 P-KB3 664. P-QB3 P-KB3 665. P-QB3 P-KB3 666. P-QB3 P-KB3 667. P-QB3 P-KB3 668. P-QB3 P-KB3 669. P-QB3 P-KB3 670. P-QB3 P-KB3 671. P-QB3 P-KB3 672. P-QB3 P-KB3 673. P-QB3 P-KB3 674. P-QB3 P-KB3 675. P-QB3 P-KB3 676. P-QB3 P-KB3 677. P-QB3 P-KB3 678. P-QB3 P-KB3 679. P-QB3 P-KB3 680. P-QB3 P-KB3 681. P-QB3 P-KB3 682. P-QB3 P-KB3 683. P-QB3 P-KB3 684. P-QB3 P-KB3 685. P-QB3 P-KB3 686. P-QB3 P-KB3 687. P-QB3 P-KB3 688. P-QB3 P-KB3 689. P-QB3 P-KB3 690. P-QB3 P-KB3 691. P-QB3 P-KB3 692. P-QB3 P-KB3 693. P-QB3 P-KB3 694. P-QB3 P-KB3 695. P-QB3 P-KB3 696. P-QB3 P-KB3 697. P-QB3 P-KB3 698. P-QB3 P-KB3 699. P-QB3 P-KB3 700. P-QB3 P-KB3 701. P-QB3 P-KB3 702. P-QB3 P-KB3 703. P-QB3 P-KB3 704. P-QB3 P-KB3 705. P-QB3 P-KB3 706. P-QB3 P-KB3 707. P-QB3 P-KB3 708. P-QB3 P-KB3 709. P-QB3 P-KB3 710. P-QB3 P-KB3 711. P-QB3 P-KB3 712. P-QB3 P-KB3 713. P-QB3 P-KB3 714. P-QB3 P-KB3 715. P-QB3 P-KB3 716. P-QB3 P-KB3 717. P-QB3 P-KB3 718. P-QB3 P-KB3 719. P-QB3 P-KB3 720. P-QB3 P-KB3 721. P-QB3 P-KB3 722. P-QB3 P-KB3 723. P-QB3 P-KB3 724. P-QB3 P-KB3 725. P-QB3 P-KB3 726. P-QB3 P-KB3 727. P-QB3 P-KB3 728. P-QB3 P-KB3 729. P-QB3 P-KB3 730. P-QB3 P-KB3 731. P-QB3 P-KB3 732. P-QB3 P-KB3 733. P-QB3 P-KB3 734. P-QB3 P-KB3 735. P-QB3 P-KB3 736. P-QB3 P-KB3 737. P-QB3 P-KB3 738. P-QB3 P-KB3 739. P-QB3 P-KB3 740. P-QB3 P-KB3 741. P-QB3 P-KB3 742. P-QB3 P-KB3 743. P-QB3 P-KB3 744. P-QB3 P-KB3 745. P-QB3 P-KB3 746. P-QB3 P-KB3 747. P-QB3 P-KB3 748. P-QB3 P-KB3 749. P-QB3 P-KB3 750. P-QB3 P-KB3 751. P-QB3 P-KB3 752. P-QB3 P-KB3 753. P-QB3 P-KB3 754. P-QB3 P-KB3 755. P-QB3 P-KB3 756. P-QB3 P-KB3 757. P-QB3 P-KB3 758. P-QB3 P-KB3 759. P-QB3 P-KB3 760. P-QB3 P-KB3 761. P-QB3 P-KB3 762. P-QB3 P-KB3 763. P-QB3 P-KB3 764. P-QB3 P-KB3 765. P-QB3 P-KB3 766. P-QB3 P-KB3 767. P-QB3 P-KB3 768. P-QB3 P-KB3 769. P-QB3 P-KB3 770. P-QB3 P-KB3 771. P-QB3 P-KB3 772. P-QB3 P-KB3 773. P-QB3 P-KB3 774. P

Travel

Sun, sea and steel bands



Through a faint sea mist we could see the shoulder of South America some seven miles distant. Trinidad, where we stood, was once part of this great continent whose wild life it reflects in miniature.

Before Columbus the native Amerindians called Trinidad "Jere"—the Land of the Humming Bird. The island has long been an ornithologist's delight. Even tourists, whose interest in bird-life is minimal, choose to board the Carriacou-Monique near Port of Spain. At sunset thousands upon thousands of scarlet ibis glide homewards to their nests after daily foraging for tiny tree oysters.

On several evenings after dark we strolled around Port of Spain's huge Seventeenth Park amid a sea of smoking faces—mostly youths (very few girls), all intent on listening to the steel band competitions. As it is to prove the universality of music, one or two bands even had the odd white player, which must have been something of a privilege because "pan" music, as the drums are called, originated in Trinidad, as did the calypso.

One problem for visitors to Trinidad is finding good but cheap accommodation. The cheaper hotels seemed distinctly run down. Although the welcome to foreigners is genuine, the Government has avoided too much dependence on tourism. A number of areas have been earmarked for tourist development, but only one has so far begun to take shape at Maracas beach, which is a popular weekend resort for Port of Spain near by. In fact the adjoining Las Cuevas has an even better beach, but is largely left to the fishermen and their

hanks of gleaming king fish, probably because of the tiny sand flies.

In our search for accommodation, the tourist office put us in touch with the guest house, Monique, who were very helpful, gave us lists, and made a few phone calls on our behalf. They soon found us an excellent private guest house called "Monique" in Maraval. It was spotlessly clean and we were treated as part of the family. The place had a small kitchen for the use of guests. Monique's husband, who had retired early, had a reputation for relaxed, Trinidadian humour.

To tour the island, which is about the size of Lancashire, we hired a car. A young English couple, who were kind and helpful, gave us a small car, a Land Rover, for the north coast, recommended how one lorry driver, thinking they were impetuous, had insisted on their sharing his lunch. On leaving he pressed them to accept a drink, regretting that was all he had.

Blanchisseuse may not be the end of the world, but it is certainly the end of the road. A local youth who appeared from nowhere confirmed this fact, so we drove with him back to the village. On the way I pulled the leg about the isolation of Blanchisseuse, but he had no doubt about the advantages of living there: "You don't need money because food is free. If I want fish, I can catch it myself."

This is how it was in the old days. The writer, E. M. Rosch, reminding us of his childhood, recalls: "I used to feel free to enter any garden and take for whatever was ripe on the trees or fallen on the ground."

Leaving the coast road at Blanchisseuse, we turned south towards Arima (Amerindian for "water"), stopping at the nearby Awa Wright Nature Centre, famous for its colony of nocturnal oilbirds—or guacharos.

Through Sangre Grande to the rugged north-eastern "Cappis" road, which we had been unable to reach from Blanchisseuse. The east coast of the island is kept pleasantly cool by the Trade Winds which blow steadily onshore, but since it is open to the Atlantic the sea can be rough on this side. That night the wind howled incoherently, shaking the windows, but next day all was calm. Screwed for miles along the broad sandy beach were thousands of small plastic balloons. On closer examination they proved to be Portuguese Men of War.

We soon found ourselves bumping and jouncing on an unsurfaced road across the southern range of the hills through a dense jungle which never a house or hut to be seen, or any road leading off. We saw only one other car on the whole 20 miles or so to Rio Claro, which seemed closer a hundred.

Suddenly we came out into open country and beheld an endless field of sugar cane which they were still harvesting. On the way across the western prong of the island towards the great pitch lake. To be truthful, the landscape was one of the few things I knew for certain about Trinidad, and that centuries ago Sir Walter Raleigh had gazed his ships there with its tar.

Ronald Irving

How to get there: British West Indian Airways (Tel. 838 7855): 44-45 day excursion fare to Trinidad, £225.50; to Tobago, £331.00. Early Bird to Trinidad, £189.50; to Tobago, £197.00. Kneel Holders three weeks (but half-board for two, that room only for one) in Tobago at Turtle Beach from £440. Rankin Kubu: villa holidays (three weeks for the price of two) from £298 to £379 per person; 14 nights Trinidad/Tobago from £495 for half board; Trinidad/Tobago villa holidays two or three weeks from £298 to £379.

Compared with Trinidad, Tobago is a house in the street. Only 25 minutes away by air, it is where the rich from Port of Spain come to their week-end perches, as well as to huge cups and citrus plantations. Otherwise Tobago is a Mecca not for oil prospectors, but rather for ornithologists, as well as the quieter and more idyllic tourist—for an idyllic somewhat one-eyed way, it is among the loveliest and least developed of all the Caribbean islands.

A ragged alluvial shape, Tobago's landscape merges somewhere in the middle from coral to volcanic soil from flat, palm-lined beaches at the western end where the resort hotels are, to the mountainous, jagged beauty of Speyside at the eastern extremity, where the Bird of Paradise Inn is as choice a spot for bird watching as for a delicious, Chinese-style lunch (quite different from the conventional offerings) with Mr and Mrs Lau, who run it.

The Arnos Vale Hotel, one of the oldest in the island, is a naturalist's dream—not only for birds and flowers but also for snorkelling among the magnificent sea gardens which eddy among the rocks at the far end of the island beach. The nocturnal sounds which emanate from Arnos Vale lead more to the counting note of a bullfrog (which sounds like a pinkish motorcycle) than to the frog and steel bands or any other such form of jollification. This is intentional: you pay for what you don't get—noise, glare and crowds and after dinner there is a tranquilly apart from conversation with fellow guests to detain you from your bed. But Tobago's three other resort hotels—Mount Irvine, Turtle Beach and Radisson Crown Reef (all of them easily combinable with an Avis—self-drive)—compensate with various barbecues, buffets and steel band evenings, which

keep the social circulation going.

Mount Irvine is a notable chiefly for a magnificent 18-hole golf course. It is the largest and most luxurious of the island's hotels; there are several bars, two restaurants and a swimming pool plus a snack bar on the beach, down below the road and other sports facilities. Turtle Beach, on a strand well over a mile long, feels more remote: towards sunset, an informal fish auction is conducted on the beach. Red rustle cabanas open directly on to lawns and sea, and the hotel put on a really splendid Saturday night buffet with one of the top Trinidad steel bands and a superb group of Haitian drummers.

Radisson Crown Reef is an American concern of high professional standards whose repertoire of food and wine none of the other hotels attempts to match. It stands at one end of Speyside, the best beach on the island. As the other end is a useful establishment, Crown Point, an apartment condominium from which one can rent kitchenette rooms at around \$50 a day for two. It also has an excellent Chinese restaurant where we lunched frequently in our swimsuits.

It is from Speyside Bay that most of the glass bottom boats put out. The Buccoo Reef and its coral gardens, a natural wonder which reveals itself from a distance as a pale jade streak in the cobalt waters. This is the island's only "pay" beach—but it is equipped with beautifully maintained thatched shelters, showers and picnic benches. Families come down for the day, rather in the French manner with ice box, insulated cooler, and a picnic basket. (Another native treat, made from fresh land crab and dainties—leaves)—and altogether, every combination and permutation of domestic comfort.

Doonee Beal

The Times Special Offer

Shear delight for gardeners

Once you have used stainless steel tools you soon get addicted to them and scorn all others. Of course, they are normally dearer than ordinary steel shears or chrome-armoured "rust resisting" shears, but we are pleased to be able to offer this range of stainless steel shears at highly competitive prices.

They are of very high quality rust-proof stainless steel, and the blades are hollow ground. The hand or hedge shear handles are moulded so that the shoulders meet and absorb the tiring, jarring effect so noticeable with shears that do not have this design refinement. Each shear has an adjustable locking nut which is easy to undo should it be required to separate the blades for sharpening.

All three models have plastic-coated handles for long life. They are extremely light, well balanced and easy to use, and easy to clean.

The hand shear has a large notch at the base of one blade enabling the shear to cut a stem up to 1/2 inch thick. The handles of the lawn and edging shears are 32in long. The flat lawn shear is, of course, a joy to use for trimming grass close to steps or tree trunks, under shrubs, or in any other awkward places. It is also useful for trimming those annoying wiry stems of grass—the bents as they are called—which often escape the blades of a cylinder mower and make a lawn unsightly.

If you find stooping or crouching tiring or uncomfortable, you will appreciate this flat lawn shear, and it could be a most welcome present for any elderly or handicapped person who prefers to do the gardening from a standing position.

These tools, made from Sheffield steel, are really good value, and I doubt if we shall see their like again at comparable prices.

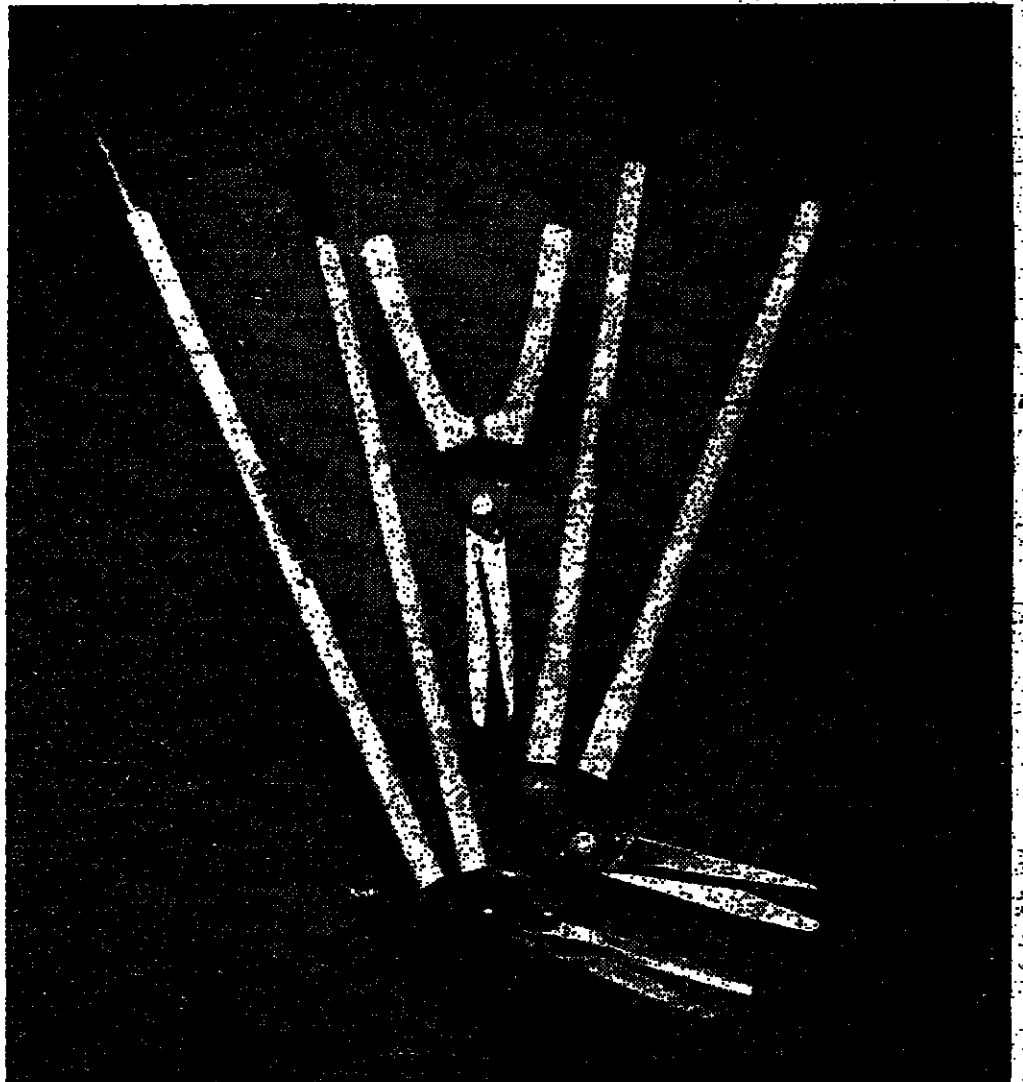
To order, complete the coupon in block letters. The offer is open to readers in the U.K. only. Delivery within 28 days from receipt of order. Queries, not orders, to David Sharpe on 01-837 1234, Ext. 7893.

Send to: Shears Offer, Times Newspapers Limited, 32 Wharf Road, London N1 7SD.

	Price including delivery	No. Reqd.
A Hand Shears	7.45
B Border Shears	8.15
C Lawn Shears	9.00

I enclose cheque/PO, for £..... crossed and made payable to Times Newspapers Limited.

Name
Address
Postcode



Bridge

The beaten track

Many players obtain the greatest satisfaction from reading stories about hands which were so finished that an experienced player could only read to safety. The reason behind this aesthetic trait must be that our attitude to bidding becomes too scientific and inflexibly unadaptable. We know about the "high cards" or "point-count" distribution, but a declarer should be in "game" and we should be ready to play on. We have gone down in obeying their maxims.

How often have you heard or read, "The opponents made a serious mistake but I missed a top on the board." Perhaps it was through a misunderstanding that the underdogs scored heavily, but they had their moments of glory, and it is by such unexpected reverses that bridge continues to thrive.

Experts are always ready to acknowledge mistakes and one of them accused himself of a serious error in defence. He was in the most ordinary situation of having to discard after his partner, and he announced at the end of the play that he had thrown the wrong card. Was he to blame?

North-South game dealer South:

♠ A K 2
♥ Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A K 2
♣ A K 2

fore touching diamonds. West could refuse the heart trick, but declarer would then be certain that he held the ♠A, because he had only one card in the heart lead from dummy. The answer to this delicate problem depends on the ability of the declarer to interpret discards: in my experience the psychologists are more successful than the statisticians.

To contrast a possible error of judgment with a definite mistake I am taking a deal from the world championship of 1957. It passed almost unnoticed because the Americans played it so well.

East-West game dealer North:

♠ A K 2
♥ Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A K 2
♣ A K 2

West led the ♠3 and the Italian declarer, who with the ♠A taking an immediate discard of his diamond. He then played the ♠10, overtook with his ♠4 and lost to the ♠Q. West's immediate discard was now a race against time with the odds against the declarer whose hearts were blocked. The play evolved in an unusual way.

South ruffed East's winning diamond, cashed the ♠A and led a heart. West who played his second diamond and South ruffed again. A heart cut West on lead, and he had to lead either a club or a trump. He chose the club and it was at this point that declarer fell from grace.

It is easy to see that if South had finessed the ♠10 on the opening lead, he had 10 tricks—six spades, three clubs and one heart, but it was hardly a mistake to lead the ♠10 in order to ensure the immediate discard of East's error was in failing to finesse when West again led a club, because then he was sure of 10 tricks. For some unexplained reason declarer won the lead with the ♠4, returned to his hand with a club ruff, drew trumps and went down one trick.

To round off the story, there was a exchange ending to the auction at the table.

North: ♠ A K 2
♥ Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A K 2
♣ A K 2

West led the ♠7 to the ♠J and Q. East returned the ♠6 which declarer ran to the ♠A, discarding the ♠2 from his hand. Despite the information from the bidding that West held the ♠Q declarer could not escape from a two trick penalty, so the Italians gained 50 on the board, in spite of having lost two chances to make game.

Edward Mayer

West led the ♠5 to the ♠J. Declarer ducked the trick, winning the spade return and cashing his clubs. On the third club West discarded the ♠3 and on South's lead of the ♠2 to the ♠A, declarer discarded a second heart. East had to decide whether to throw a heart or a diamond on the ♠J. With all the hearts exposed, his decision seemed to have little bearing on the final score: declarer can knock out the ♠A and West has then no card of entry for his spades. East, however, sufficient from the fall of the cards to assume that his partner has led from a five-card suit and is likely to have the ♠A.

How then was East to discard declarer from playing hearts? He gave the discard much thought and threw the ♠Q, preserving his double guard in the suit and suggesting to declarer that the ninth trick might come from the long diamond. He had overlooked one important fact.

Declarer led a small diamond from dummy and, because East was compelled to play the ♠Q, made a trick with the ♠K before ascending to the ♠A, winning his game.

East blamed himself for not having thrown a heart, because he could have won with the diamond with the ♠A, and cleared the spades: an implied belief that the ♠A was not entirely at fault, because if he had discarded a heart, declarer might have tried to sneak a trick in that suit by

MOUNT IRVINE
18 hole golf course, Tennis, Beach with all water sports. Swimming Pool. Luxurious accommodation & fine cuisine.
Brochures and information from:
Morris Associates Limited
01-629 6721
Tobago: 25 South Maitland Street, London, W1Y 1PB

THE TIMES 1000
1976-1977
Turnover... Profit... Capitalisation
The world's leading annual industrial and financial review lists and analyses:
* The Top 1000 UK Companies
* Major world companies
* Largest mergers and leading profit makers
Special new features this year:
* Top 25 UK advertisers
* List of foreign banks in the UK
PLUS many other informative tables
Published by **TIMES BOOKS**
£6.00

THIS MONTH WITH Fyba
The Economical Way to Grow Your **FRESH TOMATOES**
The Fyba Fyba Culture system is the economical and well proven method of successful tomato growing. Ready packs of Fyba Fyba Culture & Fyba Fyba are supplied complete with detailed, easy to follow growing instructions, and are available from garden centres, nurseries and hardware stores.
Fyba
THE FYBA POT COMPANY
Hemel Hempstead, West Yorkshire

FOR EVERYTHING THAT GROWS—AND ECONOMY... Containing valuable trace elements, PHOSTROGEN is a genuine all-purpose plant food for soil and foliar feeding. One packet will prove that it gives outstanding results on everything that grows.
Britain's most widely used plant food for all flowers, vegetables, lawns, greenhouse & indoor subjects. 500 litres (110 gallons) for 30p. Nearly 3½ gallons for only 1p
PHOSTROGEN
Leaflets: Send Stamp PHOSTROGEN LTD. (78) CORWEN, CLWYD
VISIT PHOSTROGEN ON STAND 11
CROSS-WAY, CHELSEA SHOW

Gardening

Never say die, at least not yet

Soon now we will be able to make a realistic assessment of the losses caused by last year's drought. I would wait until mid June before giving up hope for a plant that looks dead. Many azaleas took a great beating, but many I know are breaking into growth from ground level. Many older heather plants looked dead at the end of the summer, still look dead, and probably are, because heathers do not usually break into new growth from old stems or from below ground.

Hardy fuchsias took a beating in some gardens and looked very dead. But the fuchsia comes from hot climates, and I think most will recover. Mine had their top growth killed by the frosts in January, but are breaking again new from the base, as indeed has happened for many years.

Of course some shrubs, like *Choisyana ternata*, did not like the dry summer or the cold snaps in winter, and there are dead shoots to be clipped off, but then this often happens.

Conifers that looked brown and dead at the end of the summer still look dead, and I fear will have to be removed or replaced.

One is told in the books not to replant, for example asparagus, in the same bed—if a plant dies do not replace it. The rose specialists say you should remove a large amount of soil and replace it if you wish to plant new roses in an

old bed. This is probably counsel of perfection, as so much of our gardening advice must be. Yet I have successfully replaced asparagus plants that have died.

If a large clump of heather has really died I would dig it out, fork over the soil well, work in a mixture of peat and bonemeal to the top spit of soil, and replant with say three or four young heathers to get a quick replacement ground cover.

I am a great believer, when planting trees or shrubs, in the value of a peat and bonemeal mixture. A double handful of bone meal well mixed with a two gallon bucket full of moist peat worked into say a square yard of planting site can give a tree or shrub a wonderful start in life, and an inch or two of the mixture should be spread under and over the roots before the planting hole is filled in with soil. I have, of course, to make the proviso that one should not put a lot of peat into a planting hole made in a heavy clay soil, because it may act as a sump and fill with water, drowning the roots of the plants.

At this time of year it is well to take the shears or secateurs and trim winter flowering heathers, cutting the shoots made last year back to about half their length. Santolina, the cotton lavender, can be pruned hard now, cutting it back almost to ground level if desired. Nepeta, too, may be trimmed hard now if it has not already been cut back.

Our climate is really very kind, mainly equable, and it

permits us to grow a greater variety of plants than can be grown in any other part of the world. But in spring it can be cankerous, and for gardening scribes like me, fraught with difficulties. As I write I am afraid that we will have cool weather with cold, and maybe frosty nights even until the end of May, because the soil never recovers several degrees below what it should be at this time.

So I suggest that we make haste slowly. Don't be in a hurry to sow French or runner beans if you live in a cold part of the country. They will still give you a crop sown even at the end of May. Don't rush to plant out tender plants like dahlias, geraniums, tomatoes and the like, until the weather really shows that it has warmed up.

But, distrustful as I always am about our weather, I would suggest we be prepared for a sudden change to warm and dry conditions. If you have, or can buy, any mulching material that you can put on the garden—compost, half decayed leaves, peat, spent hops or the like—put it on now while the soil is still moist.

Thin and weed all crops raised from seed, flowers and vegetables, at the earliest opportunity. This to me is a number one priority no matter what the weather may be, because seedlings of many plants can be grievously checked if they are left to fight each other and the weeds for air, sunshine, food and moisture. Some new crop, fairly from a check-up the seedling stage.

If you are growing vegetables for the first time, or

even if you have always grown some, think ahead a bit and do some planning for successional sowings. Too often people have a great sowing session around Easter and they sit back and do no more sowings. We should, if we want the crops, sow a short row of lettuce every 14 to 20 days from now until August. I still go for Webbs Wonderful as a lettuce that will not bolt to seed in hot weather. But Suttons and Dobbies offer packets of mixed cos and cabbages, lettuce, and these will give you a steady harvest for a good month if you start cutting them when they are quite small.

We can make two or three more sowings of peas at 10-14 day intervals, and we can sow dwarf French beans as late as the first week in June in the south half of England, and be fairly sure of a good crop to follow those we sow in May.

Roy Hay

Because of the silver jubilee of the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower show is being held a week earlier than usual so that the Queen can make her private visit on Monday, May 16, the day before the show opens.

The show, in the grounds of the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, will be open as follows: Tuesday, May 17, 8.30 am to 8 pm, private view only for holders of members' tickets; Wednesday, May 18, 8.30 am to 8 pm, 25 (for non-ticket holders); Thursday, May 19, 8.30 am to 8 pm, 25; Friday, May 20, 8.30 am to 5 pm, 15.

Sportsview

Making a fine old racket in Wimbledon's centenary year

This summer will see the centenary of the Wimbledon lawn tennis championships, and the All-England Club has planned a number of side-shows to uplift the birthday. On the opening Monday, June 20, half an hour before Bjorn Borg of Sweden, the reigning champion, takes the centre court to set the ball in motion once more, there is to be a parade of singles champions, men and women.

The cavalcade will be led by Mrs. Godfree—Miss Kitty McKane won in 1924 and 1926—and Jean Borotra, the ageless Bounding Basque. Once more Borotra's black beret will leap to the mind's eye, as will the quicksilver half-volleys of the Frenchman. Coherer, the adroitism of Fred Perry, and the square-headed racket of Jack Crawford, who played with his shirt-sleeves buttoned politely at the wrist.

All will be presented with gold medallions as mementoes of past glories, with special replicas struck for "Toro Brugnon", the French doubles specialist, and Miss Elizabeth Ryan, of America, holder of 17 doubles titles, whose record Billy Jean King will try to beat this year.

Watching the craftsmen

Then there is the new Wimbledon Museum, to be opened officially on May 19 by the Duke of Kent, president of the All-England Club.

Constructed at the side of the centre court overlooking the flowered tealawn, the museum has been arranged and designed by Mr. Robin Wade and his team of craftsmen. Mr. Wade was responsible for the classic Chinese Exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1973 and the 1776 Exhibition at Greenwich.

There will be an old workshop where a craftsman is seen making a racket by hand, a reconstruction of the original changing room at Worple

Road, with its actual Delft washbasin and long lockers for the housing of rackets and croquet mallets.

Next to this will be a Victorian parlour crowded with tennis knick-knacks of the day. An adjacent library, containing more than 1,000 tennis books, photographs and ephemera, will be named The Kenneth Ritchie Wimbledon Library, in memory of Lord Ritchie of Dundee, for long a member of the committee of management of the championships.

A theatre will show snatches of famous matches from collection of some 400 cassettes, with commentaries by Dan Maskell, Fred Perry and others, including the first ever BBC sound broadcast delivered by Teddy Wakelam, as well as irrelevant but typical asides overheard in a crowd drifting from court to court in high summer: "My dear, my gladioli are doing splendidly..."

There is to be a fashion section tracing the changes of styles from the Edwardian days when Mrs. Storry, twice singles champion, commented: "To my mind nothing is more in keeping with the game than a nice hanging white skirt (about two inches off the ground), white blouse, white band and a pale coloured silk tie and white collar."

The Royal Patronage section embraces photographs of King George VI in action in the doubles championships, together with a two-foot bronze statue of the Duke of Windsor when Prince of Wales.

Central to the whole theme will be effigies of six of the game's giants: W. Renshaw, Mrs. Lambert Chambers, Helen Wills Perry, Tilden and Suzanne Lenglen—constructed of glass fibre and clay. One is reminded of a letter from a correspondent which ended: "And to have seen Borotra at his heights was to have seen what tennis is all about—wild, swift, excessive, brilliant, heart enchanting."

Geoffrey Green

Local elections

Some small errors arose in Peter Pulzer's articles last Saturday and Monday. In the table relating to the GLC (last Saturday) the swing in Greenwich since the last GLC election should have read 16.8 per cent, not 8.2 per cent. In Woolwich East the swing since the last GLC election was 22.4 per cent, not 25.1 per cent. In Bradford (last Monday) the swing to the Conservatives since the last general election should read 18.8 per cent, not 12.3 per cent, and the National Front vote in the old city area was 5.3 per cent, not 11.4 per cent.



An osprey takes its prey: Photograph by Stixen Jonsson.

Why the birds' egg snatchers could be in for a shock

Now is the time when chick thieves and nest raiders, the pirates of ornithology, go to work. Four years have been taken by some agile felon from an osprey's nest and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is mounting the biggest security campaign yet to guard the eggs of those birds of prey which in Scotland have become preyed-upon birds.

There are 16 known pairs of ospreys in the Highlands and the Scottish population has survived from within a wingtip of extinction. The golden eagle, too, is growing in numbers after falling foul of egg collectors, gamekeepers with old-fashioned ideas and pesticides that once in the food chain, rendered eggs infertile.

The greatest effort in Scotland this year will be put into the protection of the peregrine falcon. This majestic but vulnerable species is under attack for a number of reasons. Britain now has about 500 pairs of peregrines, probably the largest concentration in Europe. Most of them are in Scotland. In other countries where the peregrine is a status bird, sought by falconers because of its speed and fine

flight—or by grosser souls because it can even look handsome in a glass case, stuffed, the species has suffered severely.

In Scandinavia where once there were more than 2,500 pairs the decline has been catastrophic. Norway has only 10, Sweden eight, Finland 30, and Denmark none. In West Germany where the peregrine is most prized, conservationists say there are fewer than 25 pairs.

Pesticides have done the most damage. The peregrine is regarded as a sensitive barometer to the state of the environment. "It is a kind of miner's canary to pollution. If a stretch of moorland can support healthy peregrines that is the best compliment a landscape could have because it means its land is in excellent condition. The grouse of Scotland have allowed the peregrine population to thrive," said Mr. Douglas Weir, whose study of the peregrine is supported by the World Wildlife Fund.

During the next few weeks peregrine nests will inevitably be the target for illegal raiders. Some will be after the

eggs either to incubate or to collect, others will go for the young chicks which can be reared for sale to dealers on the continent. The money involved in these transactions has probably been exaggerated.

"The man who raids the nest does not see anything like the £1,000 or more which is supposed to be paid by wealthy falconers for a good bird, but even so it is a lot of money to have lying on an unprotected ledge," he added.

About £300 is the maximum paid in Britain for a peregrine and the "fancy inflation" strikes higher up the ladder than the original thief. The market for stolen birds is now thought less likely to be among wealthy Arab falconers but much closer to home. "People can become quite obsessed with the idea of owning one of these birds even though there is no hope of them ever flying it properly. In the whole of Britain there are probably 20 people who could fly a peregrine correctly," another falconer told me.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is spending several thousands of pounds to provide more wardens to watch

vulnerable eyries. Infinitely subtle measures are being employed to guard the eggs. "We do not want to give details but we are taking steps this year we have never taken before to catch nest raiders. In certain areas we will be on watch round the clock. We also have lists of known thieves and the car numbers of some of them," a society official said.

In America certain types of pesticides wiped out the peregrine but after a \$500,000 research programme, Cornell University has succeeded in breeding the falcons in captivity and hopes to reestablish them in the wild.

Ironically the success of artificially breeding birds precludes a legal snag that helps the thieves. It is difficult to prove a particular bird has been taken illegally if the owner swears it has been bred in captivity. "That has been the position up to now but this season could see a change. We have something up our sleeve which I hope will give the nest raiders quite a shock," one warden said.

Ronald Faux

George Hutchinson

Time could be on Labour's side, but it is too late

We now have the Campaign Guide, an invaluable compendium of 789 pages compiled by the Conservative Research Department—but no campaign. When can we expect one? What is the outlook?

We are entitled to assume, without extravagance, that the Conservatives would secure a massive victory in an early general election. Gratified though he is by all the agreeable, not to say heady, aspects of his exercise in "summitry" and we need not begrudge him his personal satisfaction, Mr. Callaghan's London conference cannot be expected to reverse the national judgment on his administration so tellingly expressed in the recent polls, or even to modify it to any great degree.

Nor will he be saved by public interest in the forthcoming Commonwealth conference in London, with its wistful President Amery. The measure of his plight, electoral salvation is not to be found in ceremonial and the personal attention accompanying it. Whilst the elections may be postponed, they will not be delayed as all that.

Their mistrust of Labour is too deep-seated for them to be disarmed by a succession of sunny appearances on television or the promise of a "golden decade" ahead. While the Prime Minister may be quite well liked (not without reason), he is not always believed.

Mr. Callaghan was not born yesterday. He knows this. He is too old a hand not to know it, and is correspondingly determined to defer the test. Underpinning (if that is the word) by Mr. Steel and his patron, chocolate soldiers, he may even succeed in postponing the day of reckoning until next year.

In all honour, you may say, he should go to the country without further procrastination, recognising the strength of feeling against his Government and its Liberal auxiliaries. In all honour he should indeed do so—but he will not. So long as Messrs Steel and Co. continue to shore him up, and in the absence of economic calamity, he will not be shamed into an early election.

He may therefore survive into 1978—a tiresome prospect for the Conservatives, whom the bulk of the electorate are so clearly calling to office at the interval. In any eventuality, with a breathing space of perhaps 12 months, could Mr. Callaghan conceivably overcome or convert the present public mood and turn the tables on the Tories?

I doubt it myself. I believe the "revival" campaign, Labour, and the surge towards the Conservatives, will be maintained. It will not be reversed, it will not evaporate, unless the Tories are themselves guilty of some appalling misjudgment in the interval. Such a misjudgment, or miscalculation, could of course occur, although it seems unlikely under Mrs. Thatcher's direction. She is increasingly sure-footed, and much in tune with national sentiment.

For example, she understands the widespread and growing disillusionment with the EEC and the popular resentment over food prices which the Common Agricultural Policy has provoked. As her friend Mr. John Biffen was saying the other day: "One of the many advantages of the leadership of Mrs. Thatcher is that the Conservative Party is enabled to have a much more relaxed discussion of Britain's relations with her sister countries within the European Community and the evolving character of the Common Market itself."

The truth is that there is little electoral mileage to be had from one and out enthusiasm for the EEC at a time when the value of our membership is increasingly suspect.

Similarly, Mrs. Thatcher acknowledges the objections to

devolution policy as an accepted and deliberate part of her instincts are probably to those of the element large, who—like the Conservatives—want unity instead of chaotic separation.

A comparable objection can be made of her attitude towards immigration and need for restrictions. Thatcher is no "hard-line" excessively indulgent "door" policy so dear to Liberals. In this she is in line with moderate—say, from extreme—opinion, the to which the recent majority of her followers in the National Front are produced the strains in which the National Front is passing more ground at the expense of the Liberal Conservative and Labour.

Over large immigration numbers concentrated in particular neighbourhoods is produced the strains in which the National Front is passing more ground at the expense of the Liberal Conservative and Labour. This alone explains the Front's success in the recent elections. It is wrong to condemn who has voted for its success. Not all of them can be understood the evils inherent in this movement, with its useful policy of compulsory education for the young, misguided rather than wide-eyed.

The National Front will be to be subdued if we are to retain our reputation as humane and liberal society. But this is only one of the challenges being posed by Thatcher—for it is she, rather than Mr. Callaghan, who will ultimately have to face them.

Labour, with or without Liberal collaboration, is in a condition to govern successfully during the interval, only because it has lost its national election. In this respect, Mr. Callaghan is, in my view, a dying administration. The role is both unenviable and ineffectual (although the fault is more Sir Harold Wilson's than his own).

There is, however, one possibility which attaches to Mr. Thatcher as she prepares her office. Besides her own party, thousands upon thousands of former Labour and Liberal supporters have declared their trust in her and will expect her to live up to it.

I wonder how many people realize that we may lose our familiar and distinctive British passports before long, that we may be required to carry documents commanding so much respect throughout the world. We are in imminent danger of having them replaced—supposedly by a uniform EEC passport, no doubt in plastic, with the words "European Community" embossed on the cover, albeit accompanied by the existing Royal Arms.

The colour, I gather, may be deep lilac—and unless Parliament asserts itself we shall have no choice but to accept this wretched and demeaning innovation. Technically, it can be introduced by Royal Proclamation, without debate in the House of Commons.

Fortunately, the national sentiment, as I judge, has a champion in Mr. Michael Foot, Minister of the Foreign Office, who has determined to bring on a debate. Of his own feelings, he has this to say: "It will no doubt be argued that changing our passports is an old-fashioned argument, but there is nothing wrong in either of them." Hear, hear, and three cheers for Neil Martin.

To his credit, Mr. Foot, Minister of the Foreign Office, has acknowledged that the proposal (though it is more than a fear) ought to be debated. It is now up to the old and middle-aged, Mr. Michael Foot, to arrange a debate. He will be guilty of serious failure if he neglects to do so.

© Times Newspapers Ltd, 1977

Pissarro at Penge, or did he get his lines crossed?

Take a look at this famous painting by the French Impressionist, Camille Pissarro. To generations it has been known as *Penge Station* and to say otherwise would no doubt make the fires of anger in those railway buffs who so virulently let off steam at Michael Freedland's assertion on this page last Saturday "that the Royal Scot is an engine that never really was".

But whatever the reference books may say, Penge, or to be more precise Penge West (it is to believe Mr. Norman Harvey who said so in the *Reckonham Journal* in 1959), it definitely is not. In a letter to the *Railway Magazine* in March, Mr. Philip Troutman, curator of the Courtauld Institute Galleries at the University of London, reported that one of two visitors disagreed with the accepted identification, but could not provide an alternative.

The magazine's readers took up the challenge and in this month's issue came the answer from Mr. B. L. Halford, of Tonbridge, who pointed out that it could not possibly be Penge West because the line through that station was quadrupled 24 years before Pissarro set up his easel.

Mr. Troutman suggested that the picture might have been painted from a bridge over the track (but again the evidence is damning: Penge West is bridgeless). Mr. Halford wrote: "I have considered other stations in the locality and have now positively identified it as Lordship Lane station which was closed in 1954. The painting is of a view from Cox's Walk north footbridge, looking north towards Nunhead, and the train is travelling towards Crystal Palace (High Level) terminus... the branch was opened in 1865, and as, little undergrowth has appeared along the earthworks

illustrated, a date of 1871 appears to agree."

Does anyone wish to take issue with that? Meanwhile the locomotive remains unidentified.

Finally, we can partially exonerate Michael Freedland. Sir Peter Masefield has already set him right over the Royal Scot class of locomotives which were not in traffic when the Royal Scot express was first timetabled between London and Glasgow the Jubilee we have been celebrating this week. Indeed, say British Rail, the class were named after regiments, not the train. For the record the honour of hauling the first northbound express was entrusted to locomotive 5299 Vesuvius and the unnamed 5934. On the south-bound train the engines were 5384 and 5938.

What a pity Pissarro was not alive to paint them.

Ion Trewin



A detail from Pissarro's painting, Penge Station.

Interfaith relations and the problems of the Holy City

Even in the 1970s it is impossible to divest Jerusalem of a special religious sense. Popularly this may be no more than a vague notion that it is the place "where it all began", though it is pretty common knowledge that the Holy City is particularly associated with Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

It is necessary to be more specific if we are to understand the contemporary interfaith situation in that part of the world. For Judaism, Jerusalem, ever since King David made it his capital circa 1,000 BC, has been both the symbol and the centre of its special tie-up with the Holy Land. For Christianity it is sacred because of the acts and words of Jesus, climaxed in the crucifixion and resurrection. For Islam, although Jerusalem stands only third in relation to Medina and Mecca, yet even this "third direction in prayer" it is a permanent place in Muslim interest. Thus the city is holy in different ways to all three religions.

Historically this has proved to be more than an accepted religious ideal. It has expressed itself in the concrete of holy places, distinctive religious communities with geographical quarters. For the Jews, the sheer fact of living Jerusalem has been and

remains paramount. For Christians the "holy places and rites" have proved most distinctive. Popularly this may be no more than a vague notion that it is the place "where it all began", though it is pretty common knowledge that the Holy City is particularly associated with Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Further to this, as James Parkes has pointed out, Jerusalem was always meant to be a "cross-road which takes influence from elsewhere and sends out its own influences in turn".

All this and much more was interrupted by the dividing of the city in 1948. Although the political and geographical situation was a "barbed wire" and "barbed wire" were paramount, the resulting blockage in human communication more than anything else frustrated the interfaith potential in the Holy Land in general and Jerusalem in particular.

Christians are concerned is that the contemporary actuality of Israel concentrated and concentrated the whole of the past relationship of the Church and the Jewish people in the reality of the present.

Inevitably that meant on the Christian side recognizing the Church's involvement in anti-Semitism and its precursor anti-Judaism—neither overstated nor understated. This is not only a matter of being implicated in racial prejudice, but also the effect of an historical Christian denial of the validity of Judaism in its own terms.

The Church has become accustomed to the demand for a radical reorientation in the emerging of the new sovereign states in Africa. In the case of Israel even more is required. It was not merely the shedding of the Church's alignment with a past Western imperialistic regime that is in question but the more difficult theological reappraisal of accepting the fact that Judaism was not only valid but very much alive and kicking when for centuries it had been relegated to a has been.

These special ingredients in the Jerusalem situation form part of the raw material in the development of its interfaith potential. This is further exacerbated by the actuality of the Jewish ideal that firmly

links the "Heavenly Jerusalem" to the earthly, real and visible city. Thus it is not surprising that the milestones of the interfaith movement can to a great extent be seen as the way in which the religious coping with actual events and crises in the Holy Land. As already indicated, for the Church the emergence of the state of Israel was (and to some measure remains) theologically traumatic. The problem for Islam is different and is mainly concerned with the necessity for a politico-religious readjustment brought about by its minority status in Israel. From the outset the Muslim set up two departments for Muslim and Christian concerns in its Ministry of Religious Affairs. Such legal provision, good and essential as it is, could hardly be expected to create an interfaith dialogue to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which the Rainbow Group was beginning to break through the theological and ideological landmarks and the time element essential for the growth of the necessary interfaith confidence. Without this prime requisite trust it was impossible for such a voluntary association with the ambitious aim of fostering mutual understanding, genuine communal relationships and dialogue to make any headway. The measure in which



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

NEW OPTIMISM IN ULSTER

eleven days Mr Ian Paisley and his political and paramilitary associates have been hounding and coercing the people of Ulster to bring the economic life of the province to a halt. The people of Ulster have stood the exhortation and the coercion, even though it has included physical menaces, personal threats, and murder. They have stood their ground in the face of the fact that most of us agree with the ostensible aim of the strike, tepidly with the aim of securing a reconstituted Stormont Parliament and government and feverishly with the aim of enforcing a more active security policy. It is the aim of the strike, they have said, to reject the notion that they could improve their position by inflicting serious damage on their shaky economy, and achieve the firmer establishment of civil order by resorting to anarchy. They have rational concern for their children and they are sick to death of commotion, destruction and lawlessness. They have stood out against the powerful but ineffectual Mr Paisley and the only two credible threats to their good opinion of their lowly citizens in the United Kingdom.

So does the administration at Stormont Castle. With the sons of the 1974 strike in mind, its preparations are thorough, its responses to the "hikers" tactics were well judged, and its visible assertion of constitutional authority from the outset was something round which the people could rally. The Royal Ulster Constabulary, which bore the brunt of the action, has signally enhanced its reputation as an impartial and effective police force, and that is not the least of the benefits to be counted in the successful dismissal of this challenge.

The episode has caused a faint note of optimism to be detectable again in Ulster. The once successful and long pondered threat of extra-constitutional "loyalism" has been outflanked by the community and the government. The forces of moderation in the province are strengthened. The possibility of constructive political movement is reopened. True, established party leaders in a barrage of exchanges in front of next week's local elections appear to want to slam it shut again. And it would be silly to suppose that entrenched positions on such matters as power sharing are suddenly to become fluid. But things will not be quite the same in Northern Ireland after the raggedly collapsing strike as before it. This will be reflected on the level of politics. What form the development takes may not become apparent for some time. But at least it would now be appropriate to put on the agenda the reconstruction of Northern Ireland's diminished local government.

Taking precedence over the political dimension both in immediacy and in importance is the question of security. There is a real danger in Northern Ireland in both communities for more effective protection against politically inspired terrorism and its associated criminality in the shape of intimidation, racketeering, robbery and extortion. The hunger is not satisfied by perfectly genuine statistics showing that the level of violence has been brought below that of twelve months ago.

The opportunities presented by the collapse of the strike would be far more likely to ripen if the Secretary of State could convince Ulstermen that the Government share their concern to the full. That is a difficult thing to do even for so convincing a proconsul as Mr Mason; and it is not to be done by lurching into new policies against his advisers' better judgment. More thrust, however, could be given to existing policies, and the merits of supplementary measures could with advantage be reviewed.

In particular there should be reassessment of arguments that such and such a measure would be counterproductive because of political repercussions in the Roman Catholic communities in the North or in the Irish Republic. They should be reassessed in the light of changes in the Republic's own security policy and in sentiment there, and in the light of the improved standing of the RUC, the better acceptability of the Northern Ireland Administration, and the undoubted yearning of by far the greater part of the Roman Catholic population in the North to have the Provisional IRA taken off their backs.

CRICKET UNDER CHALLENGE

There is nothing to be deplored in any professional sportsman seeking to improve his financial position. His playing days are usually relatively short, and at the end of them, usually during his twenties, he often has to seek a new career at a particularly awkward stage of his life. Sportsmen, too, have children, mortgages and other responsibilities, and to say that they should, for the sake of the game, forego financial advantages offered to them is as absurd as suggesting at someone who loves being in business should be satisfied with very low profits.

Cricketers have fared worse than most other professional sportsmen. With very few exceptions, their earnings, compared with those of even the poorest footballers, are extremely low. Only a few have the opportunity of playing cricket the year-round, and for many a county player, each winter brings a renewed arch for a job, or the dole. It is therefore natural that they should be looking out for opportunities to increase their incomes from the game and, rationally, any scheme which would enable them to do that would be welcomed as increased endorsement over the past few years has been. The proposal Mr Packer's cricket circus, however, cannot be accepted as any enthusiasm. Arrangements for obtaining the services

of cricketers were carried out in a clandestine manner, with Tony Greig playing a large part, as recruiting agent. For that reason alone, while acknowledging the considerable contribution he has made to English cricket, it was right that the decision was taken yesterday no longer to consider him for the captaincy of England. What is more disturbing about the circus is that its plans cut directly across two forthcoming Test series. The consequences to cricket of such a confrontation cannot be anticipated without considerable concern.

The chances of the circus retaining its hold over the cricket watching public for any length of time, after the novelty of it has worn off, is problematical. There must be a limit to the delights of watching the same two or three teams playing each other over and over, especially in the absence of the emotional patriotic allegiances which, for many, play a large part in the enjoyment of the game. Experience so far has shown that matches involving teams not based on geographical or national identity, however many stars they contain, do not provide a high degree of satisfaction and drama.

The danger of the circus for England is that, in the short run, it will disrupt the pattern of Test cricket, reducing it to a while at least, to second-rank status, and that this diminution of the

Test game will have a detrimental effect on the already non-existent healthy county championship. If the country's best players were not available for Test selection, attendance figures and club finances would inevitably suffer, interest in the game, at all levels, decline, and sponsors would look elsewhere to place their money.

That is perhaps too gloomy a view. It is possible that interest in the circus, would stimulate players to try to reach the standards required for the big rewards available. If the circus is successful, more people might be attracted to cricket, at all levels, and sponsors might find it worth their while putting more money into the game generally. Such a trend would benefit the cricketers most in need of financial incentives—the loyal and regular county players not quite good enough to reach the top, and the promising young players who are, at present, dissuaded from coming into the game professionally because of its poor rewards.

The response of the world's cricketing authorities to the circus must be firm, but not panicky. They cannot be expected to accept the intruder without a measured degree of opposition, but there should be no over-reaction. Above all, Mr Packer's challenge must be met by all cricketing countries in union. Nothing will so harm the game as disunity among the nations that hold it dear.

PAKISTAN'S UNHAPPY DIVISIONS

Bhutto has told the National Assembly that Pakistan can put end to the "nightmare" of the past two months only by holding a referendum. The people must decide either for or against Mr Bhutto's continued leadership of the country. This is the dialogue with the opposition Pakistan National Alliance will not go on and the position in turn are saying they will have nothing to do with the referendum. There is no kind of compromise in it. The country's political future will remain at cross-purposes.

It is therefore natural that they should be looking out for opportunities to increase their incomes from the game and, rationally, any scheme which would enable them to do that would be welcomed as increased endorsement over the past few years has been. The proposal Mr Packer's cricket circus, however, cannot be accepted as any enthusiasm. Arrangements for obtaining the services

referendum will only be instituted with difficulty. Furthermore, from the beginning of the current crisis, Mr Bhutto has been making much of the dangers of outside intervention. He reverted to this theme again yesterday. It is known that during the crisis he has invited Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States as mediators. His wider allegations against the Americans should surely have been allayed.

Perhaps in harping on such fears he was trying to revive memories of the threat of Pakistan's disintegration in the critical years 1970 and 1971. His Pakistan People's Party then had the support of the urban classes who saw Mr Bhutto as a progressive force after the sterile years of military rule. But over the past six years Mr Bhutto's dictatorial methods, the unchanged state of emergency with its restrictions on political and press freedom coupled with the gradual desertion of some of his most able lieutenants have combined to erode that support. In the March elections Mr Bhutto had to look for support to rural landlords against growing disappointment and opposition in the towns. Instead of finding its political life, like India's, clarified by the elections, Pakistan has only exposed unhappy divisions.

Very often in published reports of wills we read of generous bequests to other (and quite deserving) charitable bodies, indicating the wish of the testators that good use should be made in this world of funds which cannot be transferred to the next. Without decrying such bequests, we submit that the advancement and transmission of learning, teaching and research at the highest levels is also a worthy (and needy) destination for large or small amounts.

One ton of fissile plutonium is equivalent in energy to over one million tons of coal, or oil, and we have time to plan the use of plutonium with the greatest possible care. Professor Ziman refers to the threat to civil liberties; there is also the threat to our countryside and to the North Sea if the coal and oil is irresponsibly exploited. Yours faithfully, G. N. WALTON, Professor of Nuclear Technology, Department of Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology, Imperial College of Science and Technology, Prince Consort Road, SW7, April 27.

advantageous, if not disadvantageous, to invest in the processing technology required. There is no possibility of separating plutonium from uranium on a commercial scale as there is for uranium. The gas-cooled reactors developed in this country, on the other hand, produce plutonium with a high proportion of the fissionable isotope. The plutonium bred in the fast reactors will also be highly valuable as a fuel and can be repeatedly re-cycled indefinitely. President Carter may be well advised to stop re-processing American plutonium, but it does not follow that our Government is well advised to stop planning to use British plutonium.

The next British Ambassador in Washington

From Lord Caccia
Sir, There can be no objection in principle to the belief expressed by some of your correspondents that the man or woman who has the best qualifications for the job should get it. That is other things being equal.

In this case other things are not equal. The reason is the simple one, that it is not possible to avoid the appearance, if not the reality, of nepotism. Some parliamentarians may console themselves that there have been other cases in the recent past of high posts being given to relations or close personal friends of leading politicians. But it would be a tragic mistake if they were to think that this will be a balm to the public mind. The risk is that it will convince a growing number that the way our affairs are run is just as venal and insensitive as they feared.

To go to more transient considerations, Mr Jay amongst many other virtues is plain spoken and has made no bones of the fact that he is, and has always been, a convinced Socialist. If the present Government were to fall, a Conservative Prime Minister would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

As to the manner of the change, there can be nothing but contempt for the whisper that have been circulated about the way in which Sir Peter Ramsbotham held our name and interests high against all the odds. Nor should the belief be cherished that the US Government, that is the President and the Congress, would be put in an embarrassing position to say the least of it; as would Mr Jay himself. Being the man he is, I should expect him not only to offer his resignation in such circumstances but to insist on our Post Office national government business of every kind goes through Washington to make it all effective for the Ambassador there to be in fundamental political agreement with the policies of Her Majesty's Government. It has been tried and does not work, whatever the personal respect there may be between the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador. So, on present showing, Mr Jay's appointment might all too likely set the British record for brevity.

colleagues at Stanhope Gate in their judgment that Mr Peter Jay is admirably qualified to be Ambassador in Washington. Moreover, it is reasonable for a Foreign Secretary to make a change of ambassadors if he considers that the appearance of a new President in Washington requires an ambassador with particular qualifications, and Mr Jay's relationship to the Prime Minister is no more of a disqualification than Lord Horlick's relationship with Mr Harold Macmillan.

I was, however, distressed to read later in the day, in the press, suggestions that Sir Peter Ramsbotham had been unsuited in character and temperament for the post. I believe this to be wholly untrue. All Sir Peter's colleagues will testify to his continued success in important posts throughout his career in the Diplomatic Service, and I feel sure that in Washington also he has served his country well.

Yours faithfully, TREVELYAN, 1 Stanhope Gate, W1, May 13.

From Lady de Zulueta
Sir, I am sure that Sir Peter Ramsbotham's many friends and admirers, who know of the excellent job that he has done for this country in Washington, will have been extremely annoyed at the reports of his alleged "old-fashioned and extravagant approach to diplomacy" reported in today's media. All who know him and have witnessed him at first hand "on the job"—be it in Paris, Tehran or Washington—will be sure to agree that this criticism is both untrue and unfair.

Yours faithfully, MARIE-LOUISE de ZULUETA, 11 Vicarage Gardens, W8, May 12.

From Professor Joel Hurstfield
Sir, If Mr D. M. Graham (Letters, May 13) is looking for historical precedents for the appointment to public office by Mr Callaghan of a close member of his family, I will gladly take him a good deal further back than Sir Robert Peel. He might consider the conditions prevailing at the time of Walpole or the Pelhams in the eighteenth century or, better still, the methods adopted in the early seventeenth century by the Duke of Buckingham who brought his sisters and his suspected and his sons to positions of influence. Earlier still William Cecil showed himself a master of patronage and gained for Elizabethan England the sobriquet *Regnum Cecilianum*—Cecil's realm.

I have been a supporter of the Labour Party since I was a schoolboy and I am not particularly interested in the precedent set by Sir Robert Peel. But I greatly admired C. R. Attlee whose comments on the goings-on of the last few years would, I am sure, have been trenchant and memorable. He might perhaps have reminded us that the Labour Party and the Labour Government are not the private property of a single individual.

Having made such a blunder there I cannot but be particularly interested in the precedent set by Mr Callaghan to do it. If he does it, I would certainly recommend him for the post of Ambassador in Washington. He appears to enjoy greater confidence and respect with President Carter than with some members of his party. As for his Foreign Secretary, his constituents will no doubt take the opportunity at the next election of making clear to him what they think of his antics.

Yours, etc, JOEL HURSTFIELD, 7 Gleadthorpe Road, Hampton, W13, May 13.

From the Reverend R. Allington Smith
Sir, There is snobbery: and there is snobbery. Again there is snobbery and also inverted snobbery, which would bar persons otherwise well qualified to office on account of family connections. I am glad the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have not succumbed to it.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD ALLINGTON SMITH, 80 Broadview Avenue, Rainham, Kent, May 12.

From Mrs Beverly Price
Sir, On April 30 an auction garden party was held at the British Embassy in Washington DC for the

benefit of Independent Living for the Handicapped. I would like to enumerate the facts of this party for your readers.

Although this unique hands-across-the-sea event was held at the British Embassy it was accomplished at no cost to the British taxpayer. All services, food and beverage, printing items and "services" auctioned were donated; even the clean-up and parking was done by volunteers. Senator Humphrey, Senator Mathias, J. Carter Brown, Curator of the National Gallery of Art, Mrs Alice Roosevelt Longworth and Mr and Mrs John Warner (Liz Taylor Warner) all donated either a lunch or a picnic with themselves to be auctioned. The proceeds of this charity event are for housing for physically handicapped but mentally alert young adults. All who were part of the British Embassy Auction garden party are proud to have been associated with Sir Peter Ramsbotham, who is such an outstanding diplomat and ambassador.

Yours faithfully, BEVERLY PRICE, Founder of Independent Living for the Handicapped, Washington DC, May 12.

From Mr S. C. Leslie
Sir, The startling nature of the new Washington appointment seems to have unsettled some judgments. But the Foreign Secretary has testified that this was his own unprompted decision, based on his assessment of the personal qualities of a man very well known to him for a number of years. The Prime Minister, one of the shrewdest of political judges, must have known just what appearance his acquiescence would wear, and what the first reaction would be. The critics may like to regret their words, even to eat them.

Meantime one is tempted to address them in the words Cromwell used to another set of dissenters of entrenched opinions: "I beseech you, in the bowels of Christ, think it possible you may be mistaken."

Yours faithfully, S. C. LESLIE, 5a View Road, NE, May 12.

From Mr B. G. Joslin
Sir, Is it possible that those who protest, see in Mr Jay's appointment the same writing on the wall begun recently by Messrs Legendbat and Owen, namely that a new generation is at last being given responsibility?

I look forward to their refreshing ideas.

Yours sincerely, B. G. JOSLIN, 47 High Street, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, Kent, May 12.

From Mr Evelyn Gibson
Sir, The Times readers at least should approve the appointment of Mr Jay. Personally, I have long wished that he could be Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr Callaghan is to be congratulated on his courage, in view of the inevitable accusations of nepotism. These are, of course, rubbish. What about Mr Duncan Sandys and Mr Christopher Soames? And no one ever said that all Salisbury Cecils, Macmillans and Churchills should be banned from office. The objection to nepotism (or "government by crony") is to the appointment of unsuitable people.

Yours faithfully, EVELYN GIBSON, 7 Charnwood Court, Kings Road, Richmond, Surrey, May 12.

From Mr George Mikes
Sir, From Economics Editor of The Times to Ambassador. What a comedown.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE MIKES, The Garrick Club, WC2.

From Mr Tony Rushton
Sir, It gives me enormous pleasure to see that Mr Peter Jay has finally decided to fulfil the promise he made at the time of the Common Market referendum, and that, as you no doubt will recall, was to quit these shores in the event of the country voting to join Europe.

Yours in self sincerity, A. P. RUSHTON, 145 Wakehurst Road, SW11.

From Mr George Mikes
Sir, From Economics Editor of The Times to Ambassador. What a comedown.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE MIKES, The Garrick Club, WC2.

From Mr Tony Rushton
Sir, It gives me enormous pleasure to see that Mr Peter Jay has finally decided to fulfil the promise he made at the time of the Common Market referendum, and that, as you no doubt will recall, was to quit these shores in the event of the country voting to join Europe.

Yours in self sincerity, A. P. RUSHTON, 145 Wakehurst Road, SW11.

From Mr George Mikes
Sir, From Economics Editor of The Times to Ambassador. What a comedown.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE MIKES, The Garrick Club, WC2.

From Mr Tony Rushton
Sir, It gives me enormous pleasure to see that Mr Peter Jay has finally decided to fulfil the promise he made at the time of the Common Market referendum, and that, as you no doubt will recall, was to quit these shores in the event of the country voting to join Europe.

Yours in self sincerity, A. P. RUSHTON, 145 Wakehurst Road, SW11.

From Mr George Mikes
Sir, From Economics Editor of The Times to Ambassador. What a comedown.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE MIKES, The Garrick Club, WC2.

From Mr Tony Rushton
Sir, It gives me enormous pleasure to see that Mr Peter Jay has finally decided to fulfil the promise he made at the time of the Common Market referendum, and that, as you no doubt will recall, was to quit these shores in the event of the country voting to join Europe.

Yours in self sincerity, A. P. RUSHTON, 145 Wakehurst Road, SW11.

From Mr George Mikes
Sir, From Economics Editor of The Times to Ambassador. What a comedown.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE MIKES, The Garrick Club, WC2.

From Mr Tony Rushton
Sir, It gives me enormous pleasure to see that Mr Peter Jay has finally decided to fulfil the promise he made at the time of the Common Market referendum, and that, as you no doubt will recall, was to quit these shores in the event of the country voting to join Europe.

Yours in self sincerity, A. P. RUSHTON, 145 Wakehurst Road, SW11.

From Mr George Mikes
Sir, From Economics Editor of The Times to Ambassador. What a comedown.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE MIKES, The Garrick Club, WC2.

From Mr Tony Rushton
Sir, It gives me enormous pleasure to see that Mr Peter Jay has finally decided to fulfil the promise he made at the time of the Common Market referendum, and that, as you no doubt will recall, was to quit these shores in the event of the country voting to join Europe.

Yours in self sincerity, A. P. RUSHTON, 145 Wakehurst Road, SW11.

From Mr George Mikes
Sir, From Economics Editor of The Times to Ambassador. What a comedown.

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 18 and 19

April trade figures at best level since October, 1971 as exports begin to pick up

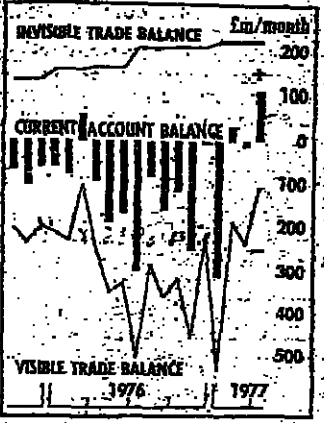
By David Blake
Britain's trade deficit fell to \$60m in April, its best performance since October, 1971. The \$130m improvement on the deficit account compared to the same month last year, helped generate an estimated surplus on the current account of \$111m.

Over the past three months, which is generally regarded as a long enough period to iron out seasonal variations, there was a surplus of \$126m on the current account, the first such surplus since 1972. The figure compares with a \$550m deficit during the three months to the end of January.

There was also some encouragement for the government in the improvement in export volumes, which rose by 1 per cent in April after long months of bitterly disappointing stagnation.

Imports, which have been rising away recently, actually fell in volume terms by 1 per cent. There was even a 4.3 per cent increase in the volume of manufactured exports in February, as they bounced back on the depressed March.

The improvement in our balance of payments also continued, with the deficit falling to \$25m in March to \$21m in April. As the year goes on, it is improvement ought to be more than made up by the rate as more North Sea oil fields come on stream, and by



the end of the year we should be in surplus on our energy account.

All of the factors then point to a considerable improvement even on the latest figures, by the end of the year, and forecasts of a further surplus in 1978 seem likely to prove correct.

But before that happens there is likely to be at least a temporary setback during the summer as imports of equipment for the North Sea rise again. Last year these cost us about £50m a month, and a similar figure is expected this year.

The other check to euphoria is the fact that the figures recorded in yesterday's figures are from a truly dreadful

base. In spite of the huge depreciation of the pound, export volumes for manufactured goods obstinately remained static throughout 1976.

The latest increase in exports still leaves our sales abroad of machinery and transport equipment no higher in the three months to April than they were in the previous three months. Exports of some manufactures which had been doing well, such as food and tobacco, have started to fall back, and fuel remains the only sector performing apart from miscellaneous manufactures.

On the import side, the general decline in much sharper for raw materials than it is for semi-manufactures, which in turn is sharper than the fall in finished goods. Taken together, the picture is one in which the trend for Britain to import more and more manufactured goods for consumption and to take in fewer raw materials for processing has been slowed rather than reversed.

However, some manufacturers now seem hopeful that the extra profits which they took by pushing up export prices will enable them to sell more abroad in future. In April the terms of trade index fell 1 per cent, as 79.7 as export prices remained constant while import prices rose.

Tables, page 20

BNOC set to raise \$700m Euroloan

By Christopher Wilkins
An advanced stage of negotiations has been reached for the British National Oil Corporation to raise \$700m (about £407m) through a loan in the Eurodollar market.

Precise terms of the loan are not yet known, although it is likely to be for a maturity of at least 10 years and possibly longer. It will be the first significant borrowing in the commercial markets by the state-owned oil corporation, which was set up in 1975.

Hitherto the BNOC has financed itself entirely through the National Oil Account and the National Loans Fund, but it is

authorized under the Act which set it up to seek funds from overseas sources. It is known to have been talking to a number of banks for some time.

The full extent of the finance so far taken up by the BNOC is not yet known, although it will shortly be publishing its first full set of accounts.

But judging by its major items of expenditure it must already have raised at least £300m by borrowing from the Government and almost certainly substantially more. In February last year a budget of £450m for the following 15 months was agreed.

BNOC took over the oil and gas assets of the National Coal Board for some £90m and paid £83m to acquire the 21 per cent stake in the Ninian North Sea field owned by Burmah.

It has since spent a similar amount in the Thistle field, buying out the bulk of Burmah's 17.2 per cent holding and also acquiring 95 per cent of Burmah Oil Development, the operator for the Thistle field.

In addition to these items, BNOC has been involved in exploration and development expenditure in various North Sea fields, chiefly Thistle, Dunlin, Ninian and Stafford, and to a lesser extent, Murchison.

The loan will be the first major one in the international bank markets by a British state-backed borrower since the Treasury raised \$1,500m earlier this year.

That loan proved to be controversial among bankers because of the extremely low rate of interest, averaging a shade less than 1 per cent over the six-month interbank rate for Eurodollars.

Many banks, particularly the leading American banks, have made it clear they are not prepared to participate in loans with interest rate margins of less than 1 per cent.

Minimum lending rate down to 8pc after twelfth cut this year

Interest rates in Britain continued to move gently lower yesterday, with the Bank of England cutting its minimum lending rate for the twelfth time this year, dropping the rate on this occasion by a quarter point to 8 per cent.

But on the other side of the Atlantic there were further signs that interest rates are now creeping higher. Most leading American banks raised their prime rate yesterday from 6 1/4 to 6 1/2 per cent.

Although there is some dispute about the significance of recent American supply bills, the hardening of American interest rates, any further increases in United States interest rates may well reduce the scope for further significant cuts in short-term rates in Britain.

Opinion on where British interest rates will now go

remains sharply divided. Some people feel that rates are already within a whisker of the bottom and may fluctuate within a fairly narrow band over the next few months.

Others, however, feel that the closer the balance of payments moves towards a sustainable surplus, the less will be the need for British rates to continue to stand above those of other countries. British and American rates have levelled in the past.

At the moment, however, British Treasury bills yield rather more than 21 per cent than American Treasury bills—though this in itself represents a huge contraction of a differential of close on 10 per cent last autumn.

A third school of thought believes that not merely an improving balance-of-payments situation will allow a further fall in interest rates. Additional

downward pressure on interest rates will come from a deepening economic recession in the second half of the year.

However interest rates more over the summer months, there seems to be little appetite among clearing banks to reduce their rates any further for the time being.

Although recent banking statistics have indicated that the clearing banks have been losing lending business recently by not cutting their lending rates more sharply, they are still in a position where, if they were to cut rates, they could only be done at the cost of making deep inroads into their profitability.

Yesterday's cut in MLR, which had generally been expected in financial markets, was primarily an adjustment of the rate back into line with other money market rates, particularly Treasury bills.

Tilling joins rights queue to raise £32m

By Desmond Quigley
Further signs of renewed strength are showing in the rights issue market with Thomas Tilling yesterday making an offer to raise £32m—the second largest cash call so far this year.

Tilling is offering one share for every four held at a price of 80p. With the shares losing 10p yesterday to 91p the offer is very finely pitched, giving a discount of only 12.6 per cent to the market price (16.67 per cent on the overnight price).

Treasury permission has been obtained for a 22 per cent increase in the gross dividend payment to 6.54p for the current year, which, on an ex-rights price of 89.2p, puts the shares on a prospective yield of 7.33 per cent.

Proceeds of the issue are specifically to fund the group's overseas expansion plans. Last year overseas operations accounted for £10.1m of the £52.1m pre-tax profits.

Since the year end, Tilling has made two overseas acquisitions, both in the medical supplies and services field—one company was acquired in the United States for about £9m and one in France at £1.5m.

Mr Francis Black, Tilling's financial director, commented yesterday that the main thrust for the group's overseas expansion programme was the United States, partly because it led the world economic cycle, and partly because quoted companies were historically cheap there.

At the annual meeting yesterday, shareholders were told that the Lomro shares held by the company (as part payment on the sale of Volkswagen (GB)) accounted for the firm's write down of investments shown in the annual accounts.

Mr Black said later that the shares would be sold when the price was right.

A reasonable rights issue queue appears to have built up, although it is said there is a large gap at the beginning of next month leading to speculation that the Government will take the opportunity to place part of its BP holding.

Burton will still cut suits but no more staff

Two days after announcing the painful axing of 30 per cent of his tailoring capacity, Mr Cyril Spencer, chief executive of the Burton Group, said yesterday that no further cuts were intended for the foreseeable future.

Contrary to speculation, Mr Spencer's plans for Burton's still include suit-making, albeit on a smaller scale.

"We are probably the biggest retailer of suits in Europe," he said in his first newspaper interview since taking over the Burton helm last December.

The group intends to carry on making its traditional made-to-measure suits as well as the off-the-peg variety, with five factories at Guisborough, Goole, Doncaster, Wakefield and Bolton, each employing between 425 and 770 people.

There will also be some factory alterations and cutting activities retained in the central services complex at Hudson Road, Leeds.

The bulk of the sales are through Burton's chain of over 350 menswear shops, but new markets are starting to open up in America, for instance, where a first foray has shown that British-made three-piece pinstripe and flannel suits could go down very well.

Although an important efficiency in manufacturing is only one component in Burton's menswear equation, Mr Spencer, who has had a glowing track record with the group's Doncaster, Peterborough and Evans (Outsides) retail chains, is aiming to apply the same principles to the men's shops.

He has already weeded out 57 unprofitable stores and is applying tighter trading practice, including speeding up stock turnover. In France, where Burton's retains a small retail chain, Mr Spencer has cut stock levels by 40 per cent.

Short stock lead times are a characteristic of Topshop, the successful young women's subsidiary. So is the principle of allocating part of the store area to independent franchisees to supply high-risk fashion goods to "spice up" the basic stock. Mr Spencer is experimenting along similar lines with introducing franchises to the men's shops.

Suits, more or less equally divided between made-to-measure and ready-made, account for about 60 per cent of Burton's menswear sales, with conventional-style jackets and trousers taking up about another 20 per cent.

Sweaters, anoraks, safari jackets and above all denim jeans, which have swept through male fashion of all ages, play a small part in the Burton mix so far.

Fashion changes, in fabrics as well as style, occur so quickly in this area that it is reckoned to be impossible to maintain production lines to cope.

Further meetings between management and union representatives of the 1,400 people affected by the rationalization are to take place next week.

Patricia Tisdall

Dollar's fall reversed by interest rise

Foreign exchange markets yesterday had a busier Friday than usual. The dollar continued to fall in morning trading but recovered by the afternoon as a result of the point rise, to 61 per cent, in American prime rates.

Expectations of further rises in United States interest rates have buoyed the dollar recently, and restricted gains by the Deutsche Mark and the yen, which closed at 2.54 and 2.55 respectively against the dollar.

Japan's announcement of an easing in exchange controls on travel and non-trade transactions had little effect.

The Dutch guilder rose strongly against the dollar and followed in full by other currencies. Sterling weakened slightly, with the Bank of England stepping in briefly to restrain the rate and the pound lost little changed on Thursday at 17/19 against the dollar.

Cavenham agreed bid expected on Monday

By Our Financial Staff
Terms of an agreed bid for the shares of Cavenham, a subsidiary of the French-based Générale Occidentale, has been agreed. The bid, which is expected to be unveiled on Monday.

Yesterday morning Cavenham asked its stock exchanges to suspend its share quote temporarily pending a further announcement. Throughout the day Hambros Bank and Samuel Montagu, respectively advisers to Générale and Cavenham, checked in cables but did not appear to be able to agree all the loose ends in time to make an announcement last night.

The Stock Exchange does not like unsupervised suspended share quotations for more than 24 hours so some announcement will have to be made on Monday.

In the City it has been taken for granted for some time that GO would renew its bid for the 49 per cent of Cavenham it does not already own.

A first bid was launched in January at 120p a share, valuing Cavenham at £62m, but it ran into strong opposition from institutional shareholders and from Montagu, which was retained to represent Cavenham's outside shareholders. Sir James subsequently abandoned the offer.

A bid is now likely to be made at 155p or 160p a share, representing a compromise between the 140p or so which Sir James was originally prepared to concede and the 180p which Montagu was reportedly holding out for.

The decision to call for a suspension of the listing was precipitated by fears that a last-minute bid would create a false market in the shares.

This followed an announcement in Paris that GO might be planning a big convertible bond issue. The board said that it intended to bid for the convertible bonds to issue up to 250m French francs (about £30m) of convertible bonds at an extraordinary meeting early next month.

GO's statement had led to some speculation that the rejected bid for Cavenham might be financed not in cash, as had been widely expected, but by a share offer underwritten in sterling by a number of British institutions.

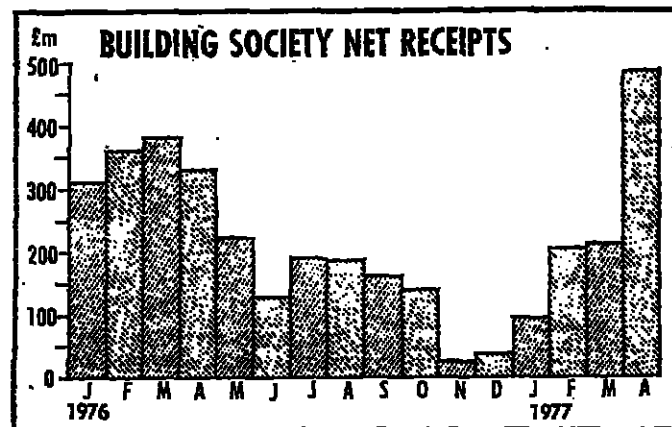
Record month for societies

By Margaret Some
Building society net receipts reached a high level of £475m in April, increasing the pressure upon the Building Societies Association to announce quickly a further cut in the mortgage interest rate.

As most building society returns are monitored on a weekly basis the strong upsurge in net receipts has come as no surprise—indeed, there were earlier indications that the monthly total might have been higher still at about the £500m mark.

The societies have a month's respite before taking any decision on rate changes.

Yesterday's monthly council meeting, at which the rates were being discussed, was shelved as it is normally when it occurs just before the association's annual general meeting, which this year will be held next week in Eastbourne.



However, the timing and the size of the cut seem to be the only things in doubt. The most widely canvassed level for a new mortgage rate seems to be 10 1/2 per cent, compared with the present level of 11 1/4 per cent. As always, there are both doves and hawks in the building society movement arguing for either a smaller or a larger cut.

Ultimately the size of the cut will depend upon the May level of receipts. If the money continues to roll in at the

present rate there is little doubt that the societies too will be more anxious to trim the super-competitive edge of their investment rate of 7 per cent, which is 10.77 gross compared with a gross return of 4 per cent on a bank deposit account.

When building society interest rates are so much out of line with the general level of interest rates the societies do become attractive to those with "hot" money.

Angry shareholders barrack directors in chaotic annual meeting Sir Eric Miller forced off Peachey board

Sir Eric Miller was forced off the board of Peachey Property Corporation yesterday during a bitter and progressively more chaotic annual meeting.

Lord Mais, who stepped in as chairman of the £29m property group in March, let control of the two-and-a-half hour meeting slip as angry shareholders barracked the directors, demanding more details of a boardroom row that has been going on since the group's takeover of the Department of Trade investigation into the group.

The row centres on the claim by Peachey that Sir Eric misled his fellow directors and the group's auditors, Price Waterhouse, over expenditure of £282,000. Last month the group issued a writ against Sir Eric demanding the return of £130,000.

At the meeting, shareholders heard for the first time of a £280,000 offer to settle any claims against Sir Eric. Mr Alfred Isaacs, a friend of Sir Eric, told shareholders that Lord Mais had rejected a personal offer of £280,000 and the assurance that Sir Eric "would go quietly" if Peachey dropped "its smear campaign against him."

Lord Mais said that the offer had been rejected because it was conditional upon the return of certain letters from the merchant bank Keyser Ullmann, and that it was insufficient as the £280,000 offered "was not the end

of the road as far as claims are concerned."

He later confirmed that Mr Isaacs and Lady Miller had come to his house. But said that "as we have litigation I think it would be utterly wrong to give details of what was a private meeting."

Mr Isaacs firmly denies that there were any conditions attached to the offer. "My only request was that Peachey should stop the smear campaign against Sir Eric. This was not an attempt on my part to cover up any alleged misdemeanour."

Shareholders were not told that one letter from Keyser—shown to Peachey's directors and auditors by Sir Eric and showing that the £130,000 was deposited for the company's use—is now claimed to be a forgery.

Mr Derek Wilde, Keyser's chairman, said yesterday that he "is absolutely confident that the signature is a forgery" and that the £130,000 was deposited for the company's use—is now claimed to be a forgery.

Mr Wilde says the bank "very much regrets the way in which it has been brought into this affair". And he confirms that the bank may take the matter to the police.

Explaining the affair of the £130,000 at the meeting, Sir Eric, who was knighted by his friend and Peachey tenant, Sir Harold Wilson, said the money was "a down payment on an overseas development."

When asked why Keyser recorded the deposit in Sir Eric's personal account he said "because I'd paid the money out previously". He went on to say that he was still awaiting certified photocopies confirming that the money had been paid earlier.

In a call for reconciliation, Sir Eric told the meeting "I have erred and I apologise." Turning to his fellow directors and to cheers from the floor, Sir Eric continued: "Three of my biggest mistakes are sitting at this table."

Although vocally superior, Sir Eric's supporters lost a hand vote for his reelection by 64 to 54. This was later confirmed by a poll showing 10.1 million votes against Sir Eric and 705,881 for. He personally controls 504,000 shares.

Sir Eric's successor, Mr Douglas Chance, was defeated on a show of hands by 50 to 38. On a poll called by Lord Mais Mr Chance was elected by 10 million to 772,800 votes.

Bank of New South Wales

Incorporated in Australia with limited liability

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF PROFITS

The Bank of New South Wales announced today the following statement of consolidated profits for the half-year ended 31st March, 1977, based on unaudited figures.

	Half Year to 31.3.77 (Dlr.000)	Half Year to 31.3.76 (Dlr.000)
Income (after deducting interest paid and contingencies including provision for bad and doubtful debts)	294,038	240,259
Less Expenses	213,877	180,676
Depreciation	8,368	7,585
Operating profit before taxes	71,792	52,018
Less Income, land and other taxes	35,510	26,695
Operating profit	35,982	25,323
Less Minority interests of outside shareholders in subsidiary companies	8,935	5,874
Operating profit attributable to proprietors of Bank of N.S.W.	27,047	19,449

The above figures exclude the following extraordinary items:
Surplus on disposal of premises and other capital profits 455 503
Adjustment for exchange fluctuations 615 (60)
Consolidated operating profit includes banking and wholly owned subsidiaries contribution 17,132 12,868
A.G.C. Ltd.—Share of profits 9,924 6,581
27,047 19,449

In the second half, with some seasonal tightness due to high tax flow, cost of money is likely to be higher, and trading bank profits will bear the effect of the present high level of statutory reserve deposit in Australia raised to 10 per cent from 21.2.77.

Consolidated results for the year as a whole are not expected to show the same rate of increase as for the first half.

The board today declared an interim dividend of 7.0 per cent being 14c per share payable on 14th July 1977. Books will close for determination of dividend entitlement at 5 p.m. on 16th June, 1977.

In conformity with the Government prices and incomes freeze the interim dividend has been held to the rate paid in the same period last year.

Last year's dividend was made up 7.0 per cent interim and 7.5 per cent final.

Index Linker

A lump-sum investment which provides the £20 a month necessary for the maximum permitted SAYE Index-Linked savings contract.

The M&G Group, Three Old Street, London EC1A 3BS. Telephone: 01-426 4588. Please send me details of your Index Linker Bonds.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POST CODE _____

Members of the Life Office Association

FOUNDERS OF BRITAIN'S UNIT TRUSTS

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Anglo Am Corp 8p to 245p	7p to 240p
Barrow Rand 7p to 179p	7p to 54p
Royston 5p to 26p	8p to 295p
Great Walker 4p to 37p	6p to 189p
Croxteth 7p to 63p	4p to 189p
Highland 7p to 67 1/2p	20p to 280p
Lafarge 5p to 38p	5p to 396p
Lipton L 18p to 68p	8p to 178p
Marlboro 10p to 71p	8p to 240p
Oil Exploration 9p to 170p	8p to 210p
Samuel 9p to 318p	14p to 536p
Stavley Inds 7p to 253p	8p to 150p
Telecom 7p to 150p	8p to 150p
Warne Wright 3p to 40p	6p to 168p
Kwik Save Disc 8p to 178p	8p to 178p
Prop & Revers 8p to 240p	8p to 240p
Reynolds Parsons 8p to 210p	8p to 210p
Shell 14p to 536p	8p to 210p
Telecom 8p to 150p	8p to 150p
Ultrasun 8p to 150p	8p to 150p
Whitcroft 6p to 168p	6p to 168p

Equities were hit by profit taking. Gold was up \$1.50 to \$148.125 an ounce. SDRs were 1.16135 on Friday. The SDR-E was 0.675400. Commodities: Coffee prices fell. Rubber's index was at 1683.8 (previous 1676.3).

Reports, page 20

On other pages: Bank Base Rates Table 20
Annual Statement: M & G 18
Bank of New South Wales 17
Towry Law 18

THE POUND

Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia 1.61	1.56
Belgium 30.25	28.25
Canada 62.25	61.25
Denmark 1.84	1.79
Finland 10.66	10.26
France 7.25	7.00
Germany 4.23	4.12
Greece 64.75	61.75
Hong Kong 8.35	7.90
Italy 1545.00	1490.00
Japan 590.00	475.00
Netherlands 4.39	4.12
Norway 9.34	8.96
Portugal 67.75	64.00
S. Africa 1.86	1.82
Spain 121.75	115.00
Sweden 7.77	7.42
Switzerland 4.50	4.28
US 1.76	1.71
Yugoslavia 21.00	21.00

Grindlays sign dollar loan for foreign buyer

Grindlays Brantley yesterday signed the agreement for the first ever dollar loan for a foreign buyer under the government sponsored export credits guarantee scheme.

Another larger dollar loan for a borrower in the Gulf, which, unlike the medium-sized Grindlays Brantley credit, will be syndicated, is to be announced by Morgan Grenfell early next week.

The successful conclusion of these buyer credit arrangements in foreign currency follows months of anxiety on the part of both bankers and exporters over new guidelines laid down by the Chancellor late last year. The Grindlays Brantley agreement is for a maximum \$12.5m credit for the Korean-Iran Petroleum company, which has awarded a new \$170m petrochemical refinery contract to the international Foster Wheeler group.

Account Days : Dealings Began, May 9. Dealings End, May 20. \S Contango Day, May 23. Settlement Day, May 31.

هكذا من الاصل

weekend



by Sheila Black

Furniture and children's wendy houses are being really well made, thoughtfully designed and direct by a Mam and whose business is wood and hobby trying to e money while running a jess and bringing up the ally.

The Peggy Playhouse is 52 inches long by 42 inches wide 50 inches high and it ives packed in a small cel measuring 30 by 16 by inches. When they have le kit they can buy nstions, and accessories h as letter boxes, open- close windows, a door- it- se on. The Peggy costs ut £35 for the basic house plete with pegs and let. Made in either Red- d pine or a high-grade board and there is a re- cement service for lost or kea parts—the latter old be rare because the iding is sturdy despite the kaway benefits.

he same company makes ll tables that outlive the fulness for toddlers since r convert to adult of older dren's seats because of r strength and these, too, k away when not used. y cost about £7 or £8.50 rding to whether you buy nished or unfinished sur- b. Child's tables are in the e series, as are tot's tables a wooden slide that can

The Optical Information Council reckons that, out of the thousands of sunglasses sold annually, far too many are chosen thoughtlessly. True, they accept that the shape of the frame, the colour and other fashion elements are deciding factors but they point out that you also need to protect eyes from glare.

So they suggest good, medium-priced or expensive glasses to shield eyes from infra-red or ultra-violet rays, because flawed glass or cheap glass may not do this, and the result is soreness and headaches. To say nothing of blurred vision.

To test the lens, hold the glasses at arms length. Look through each lens singly at a vertical line such as a window frame, a door frame or similar upright. Twist your wrist slightly to rotate the lens, or move the lens in a narrow circle. If the lens is good for your eyes, the up- right stays vertical. If it

Sunglasses are not just to make a pretty face

distorts, the lens is not for you or anyone.

Do not despise plastic lenses but remember that they scratch more easily. Plastics are needed for rounded fashion shapes, but study the lens for distortions or spots or particles of the original powder from which the plastic was made. Some glass is toughened and, so worry drivers.

which is something you ought to do anyway, it is worth buying labelled sun- glasses with some informa- tion about your lenses.

Blues, browns, greens and greys are the best tints but do not go for really dark tints in British climates. Greys and browns least dis- tort natural colours. Do not rush to buy sunglasses for children but, if glare worries them, take them for profes- sional optical advice.

Those lenses that lighten or darken according to the intensity of light—do give them time to adjust and do not lose patience because they cannot do so instantly. Polarized lenses filter out glare from flat surfaces like water and snow so these are probably wonderful for fishermen, sailing addicts and skiers. But they are not advisable for normal driving because they often show up the stress patterns of toughened windscreens and so worry drivers.

Men, women and children are hurrying to stare at models in Welbeck Street. Models at all prices—from under £1 to over £100 or more. Models that can be touched and watched at work. Models that will, with care, keep their loveliness or ugliness for ever.

Hamleys has opened the largest model shop in the world, covering more than 5,000 square feet at the back of what used to be Debenham and Freebody before it became Harvey Nichols of Wigmore Street. It has a great deal more than size to recommend it. It has versa- tility and enormous stocks— young and adult model- makers will tell you of their fury when the one essential component is out of stock and takes weeks to arrive while a painstakingly built model lies incomplete and unworkable, gathering dust.

I fell for Steam Roadsters, cars that really work with steam, at from around £19 each, as well as boats and planes.

wooden Viking ship, confess- ing that the real wood makes a welcome change from the real plastic. There is also a wooden Cutty Sark —my family has already been presented with a plastic one. The fun thing about Billing Boats is that you can make up the complete models, then buy brass fit- tings and trim for them to convert them from standard to de luxe showpieces. Mark you, the brass fittings often cost more than the boats but what would you expect?

There are some hideously fascinating Black Forest clock kits. I dislike them, but hundreds love them and they are interesting to make. There was one that struck me as original—a knight swings his chain and weight against four uprights, moving between minutes to get the next post. When the chain entwines the post, it is fascinating to watch it be- gin to unwind itself to free the knight for his next move. Yes, it tells the time as well. These kits are about £48 for quite a variety.

Some sound digital advice

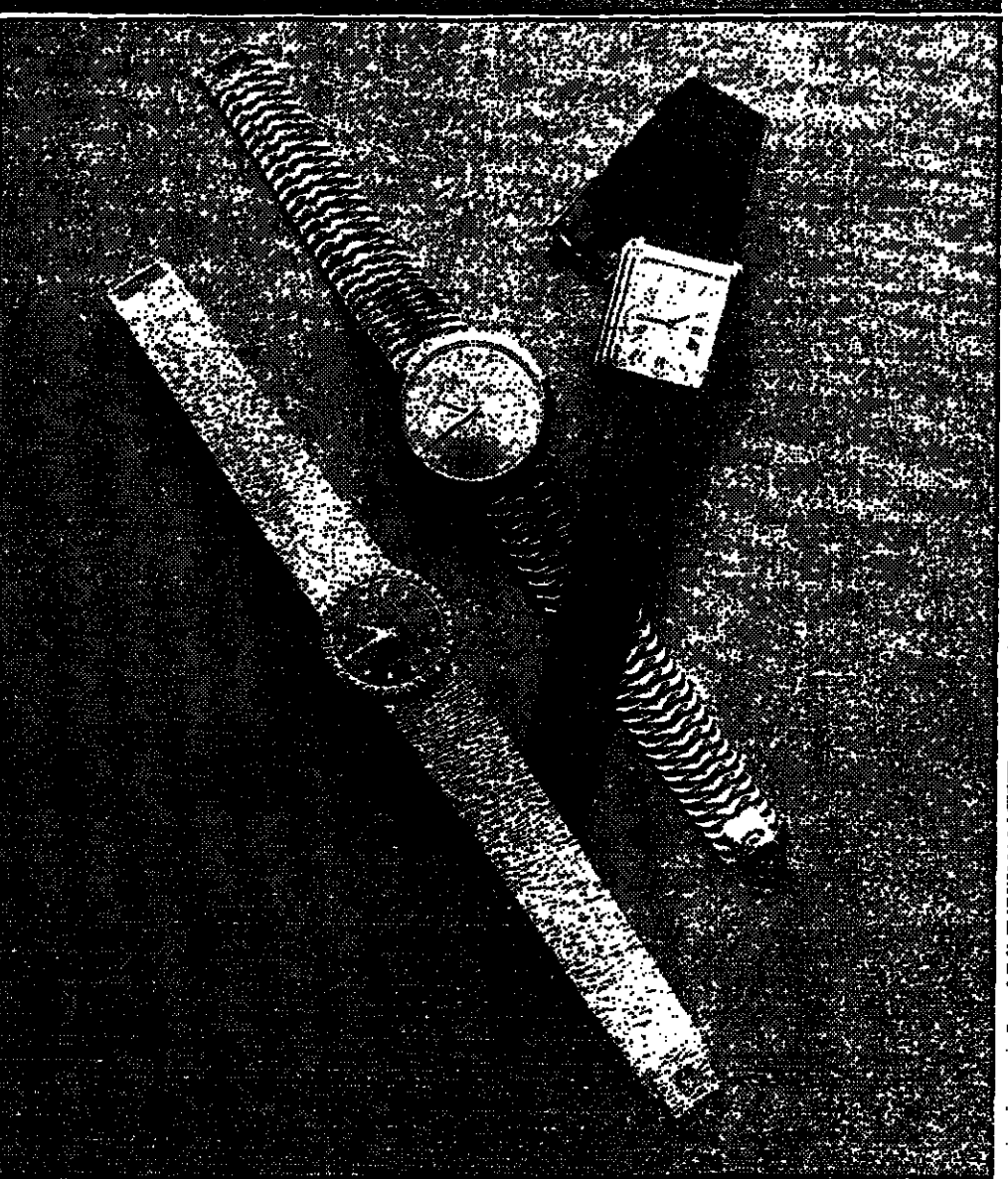
I think that I get as many questions about modern quartz and digital watches as about most things, to say nothing of a good many complaints about those that read- ers have bought already. The only hard and fast rule I can give is to buy at retailers that are beyond reproach and to study the guarantee terms closely, including the small print.

The second advice I would give, despite arguments to the contrary from many ex- perts, is that you should buy the LCD models. The letters stand for Liquid Crystal Display and that means that you have a continuous display of hours and minutes or, where relevant, date, month and seconds. The LCD is a lot more expensive, always than the LED (which stands for Light Emitting Diode). With the latter, the face is dark until a button is pressed to light it up.

Then we have the quartz watch, generally referred to as the quartz analogue, where a quartz movement is geared to a perfectly familiar watch with a face and revolving hands rather than a com- puter-type time-telling dis- play. For fashion watches, this is the system and it is becoming the most popular in all price ranges.

I should also add that the Japanese excel in LCD and in quartz analogue watches, and are as good as the Swiss at any price. Timekeeping is very accu- rate, often to within one minute per year. The batteries actually last longer because reflected rather than actual light reveals the face. Such watches can be put into a drawer and will still tell the right time when taken out to be worn again so that you can, if you have the time and wish, build up a wardrobe of watches for various occasions.

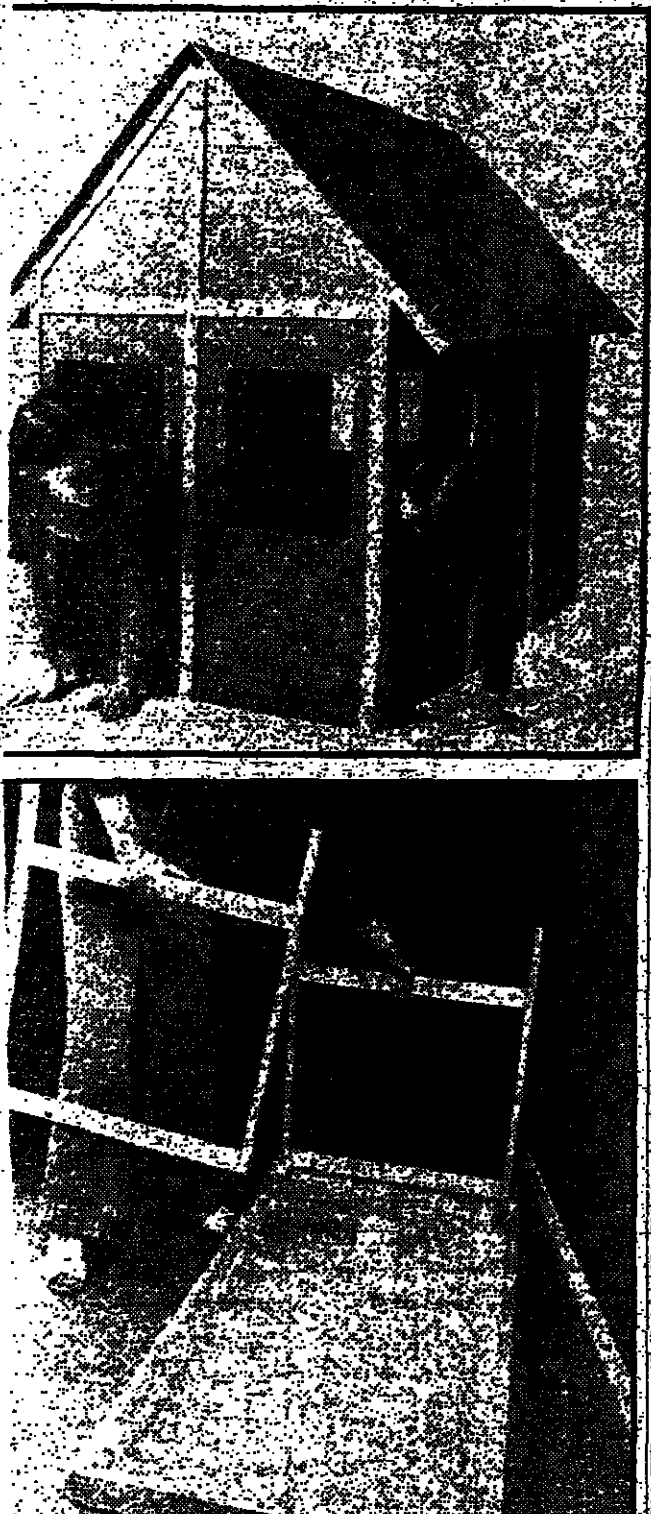
That is but a brief résumé of long talks with many ex- perts among high level man- ufacturers and retailers. And it applies to watches from £30 to £3,000.



Top right: Nothing modern about this rare piece made by master-horologist Robert Charrue at his craftsman's bench in Switzerland. From his own designs on paper, Charrue made every part by hand and polished it to perfection before assembling in a transparent glass case to show the inner beauty. For collectors at Watches of Switzerland and rather good value at £3,000. For a year's work and all those precious parts, that cannot be a high price.

Right: Three quartz fashions from Piaget at Watches of Switzerland.

Photographs by Trevor Sutton



(Top) Girls with Peggy Playhouse and (above) Lady with packaway instant table.

A small firm specializing in personal bookplates has given service with b several readers are so isted that they have writ- to tell me so. There are oubles—Twenties (a shade oubleau, Pre-Raphaelite, ncy, Augustan, Jacobean Medieval. Prices are £8.50 per 500 and you get the illustrated leaf- from: Literary Enier- s, 46 Beechcroft Road, rd.

EX LIBRIS

IAN SHARP

small, slender aerosol to itize" the air, used in tals, factories and is over much of the l, is now on retail sale John Lewis Partnership s. It contains an Ozium Hsed solution, which- quote the technical bit- hygroscopic and has an ky to moisture so that, sprayed in the air, it hes itself to the air's e moisture particles e are the vehicles for e, odours and airborne ria and literally aers them"

two hours or more in a closed room" to carry on the good work. I cannot prove or disprove this, but they do use it in hospitals and say it lasts as long as about four normal-sized air- freshening aerosols and should do much to kill rather than merely to mask smells. For the latter, it is fine be- cause I have at least been able to test that part of the claim. The 75p size, which fits in handbag or large pocket, contains 500 measured squirts. Enquiries to G. H. Wood and Company, 1/2 Mulgrave Court, Mul- grave Road, Sutton, Surrey if there is no John Lewis store near you.

I have been corresponding with a firm which has gone to a great deal of trouble to find a quality towel in nice colours to sell as personal- ized towels with names, slogans, messages or just plain, dignified initials on them.

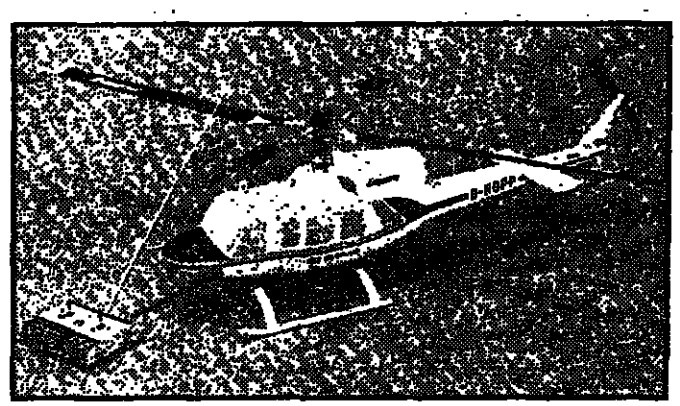
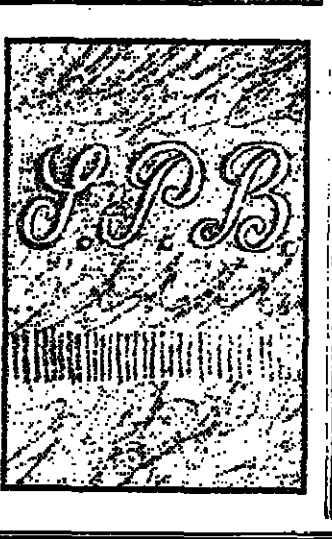
Here you see the lettering style. You can have a maxi- mum of 16 letters or just settle for His and Hers, even for Theirs. The idea of send- ing one with your telephone number on it may appeal to some? Has appealed to some,

since some have ordered them. Foreign languages are no barrier either, but do re- member accents when you send abroad. My own choice of a lovely, velvety pile is on the Ascot towel, which costs £6.95 for the 23 by 46in; £10.95 for 35 by 60in; and £14.95 for 40 by 76in. Colours are white, royal blue, brown, fondant pink, champagne, sunflower, turquoise, purple and a good bronze green.

The Mayfair quality is cheaper, from £3.75 to £9.75 for corresponding sizes, and

has a good pile but is less velvety, ideal for those who prefer roughness when dry- ing. Towelling robes to match are between £11.75 for children up to £27.75 for full length robes, while a shorter version costs £22.75.

Send for a leaflet to give further details. Do not worry about the lack of glamorous presentation on the leaflet because the service is good and the towels fine. Delivery averages three weeks. The address is Cyril Cane and Sons, 105 Wentworth Avenue, London N3 1YN.



Top: Jeannette is usually found on narrow gauge railways and is popular with preservation societies because she has the charm and character that reminds them of the good old days. Her white metal body can be painted, she is 65mm long and she costs £3.75.

Above: The Bell 212 radio-controlled helicopter of glass fibre can be fitted with mechanical working parts. A giant beauty measuring more than six feet long, the fuselage is £85 but the working parts cost £200.

W. H. Smith is doing a special offer on Kodak's new Instant cameras, the cameras which are said to be less messy and sometimes more automatic than the Polaroid which had the field to itself for so long. In 40 branches, the EK4 Instant Camera which has been selling at around £48-£49, will be £34.95—that is the model with a handle which you wind to deliver the print.

The fully automatic model, EK6, which delivers the print as soon as you have taken the picture and pulled the black slip, will be £44.95 instead of about £63. Films, normally £4.80 will carry 35p reductions. From Monday next, May 16.

Devotees of the Tower Slow Cooker, the plug-in casserole with the earthenware interior that is so good and so comparatively cheap for making stews, soups and the like, may or may not be pleased to know that there is now a larger version with a six-pint capacity. I am pleased because I have found that my half-size one did not accommodate a lot of bones and bits for stock and many will welcome the larger model. Displeased because the larger one was not available in the first place. Well, not displeased, just resigned. The price of the big one is £21.95 (recommended price). It is at most stores and is made by Tower Housewares PO Box 16, Wolverhampton WV5 8AQ, Staffs. The smaller one is £17.95 (recommended price).
